

Government defeated in vote on PR elections for Europe

Labour opponents of the EEC lined up with Conservative opponents of proportional representation yesterday to defeat heavily the Government's recommendation that the Continental-style voting system be used in the first direct elections to

the European Assembly. By a majority of 97, in a free vote, the Commons called for a simple majority vote in Britain and a single transferable vote in Northern Ireland. The decision was a blow to the Liberals.

Serious blow for Mr Steel

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The Commons last night rejected by 315 votes to 222, a majority of 97, the Government's recommendation to accept a form of proportional representation as the system to be used in the first direct elections to the European Assembly. An alliance, largely of Labour opponents of the EEC and Conservative opponents of proportional representation, carried a Labour backbench amendment to the European Assembly Bill accepting the traditional British method for elections to Westminster, of first past the post.

The decision was a humiliation to the Government, and a serious blow to its agreement with the Liberals, who were the driving force behind the proportional representation campaign. It will present serious difficulties for Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, fighting to maintain the agreement against growing disenchantment within his party.

The Liberal conference in September warned that the agreement to sustain the Commons would be ended if a substantial majority of Labour MPs did not support the Government in its recommendation of proportional representation.

But yesterday, it was soon evident that MPs on both sides of the House looked on a vote for proportional representation for the European Assembly as the thin end of the wedge against a similar system being introduced for Westminster elections.

This was the main conclusion to emerge from the two-day meeting at Chichester which ended yesterday. Both sides appeared pleased that the conversations had gone well, with Mr Callaghan emphasising that the purpose was not to take decisions but to make Anglo-French consultation "a natural habit".

Speaking at a press conference at RAF Halton near Chichester, Mr Giscard d'Estaing left Heathrow for Paris. Mr Callaghan said the new committee would consider joint projects in offshore oil technology, work on the periphery of computers, the food industry, machine tools and the paper industry.

The two leaders also welcomed plans for a 2,000 megawatt cable under the channel, provided their electricity authorities showed it would be a commercial proposition.

Asked about cooperation on a

With a free vote on both sides of the House, but with Mr Steel, the Liberal Secretary, advocating the PR on behalf of the Government, and Mr Hurd supporting the traditional system as his personal choice, it was soon clear that the Government was in serious difficulty.

Mr Hurd repeatedly challenged Mr Steel to say whether the Government was prepared to forget about all other legislation, including the Scotland and Wales Bills, for the first two months of the new year, but he failed to get any clear reply.

Advocates of PR, including Mr Heath and Mr Rees, held out the prospect of a vote to persuade MPs to vote as the Government wished. But it was evident that that was a forlorn hope.

Mr Heath vainly tried to swing the tide in favour of PR. Pledging his support for a gui-

Without any urging from their political leaders, the British and French aircraft industries, along with the West Germans, the Dutch, and the Swedes, are developing a family of European airliners.

The family will comprise a 70-100 seater based on the British HS146 design, a 130-160 seater based largely on a French design, a 200-seater B10 version of the A300 European airliner, and the 300-seater Airbus itself.

Most immediate among these projects, with a decision possibly by January, is the 130-160 seater.

Originally there were two competing European designs, the British HS146 and the French B10, but the latter has been dropped.

Photograph, page 6; £250m Channel power link, page 17

lotine on the Bill, he said there was no way of getting the elections at the agreed time under the first-past-the-post system.

Mr Hurd calculated that the Royal Assent would not be reached until May 24. On the basis of Mr Rees's estimate that it would then take three months to prepare for and hold the elections, the target date was out of the question.

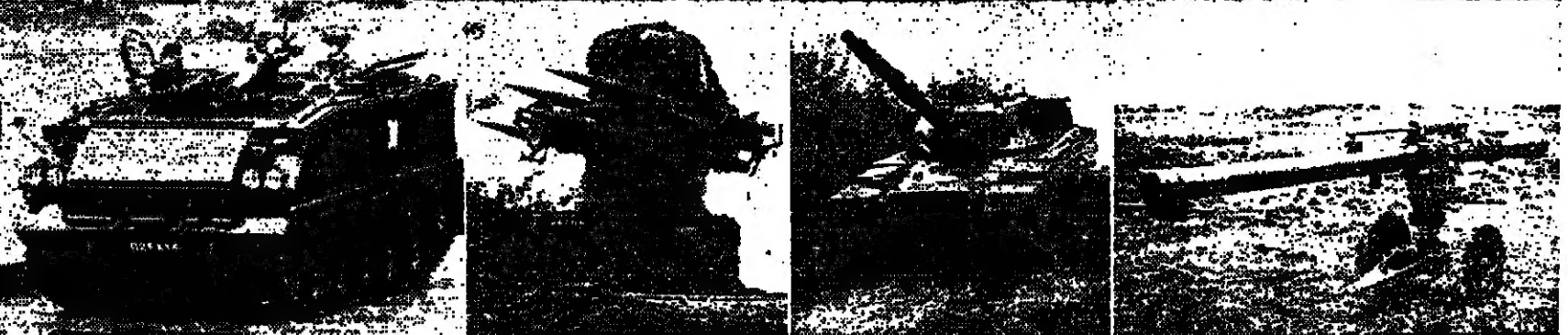
Mr Rees said that unless there was a speed-up in proceedings after Christmas, the chances of achieving the target date under the first-past-the-post system were extremely remote.

Under the regional list system they were talking about a period of three months between the Royal Assent and the completion of the elections.

Parliamentary report, page 5

Continued on page 6, col 5

Continued on page 6, col 5



FV432 armoured personnel carrier: "Designed for the 1960s, needs more maintenance."

Rapier anti-aircraft missile: "No transport, no crew protection."

Chieftain tank: "Serious engine trouble yet no spare engines."

Wombat recoilless gun: "Aging weapon no missile replacement until mid-1980s."

BAOR equipment 'badly deficient', officers declare

By Charles Douglas-Home

Allegations of serious deficiencies in the standard of equipment and spares in the British Army have been made to *The Times* by serving officers. They maintain that the deteriorating state of weapons and equipment has contributed to the loss of army morale caused by low pay.

The allegations concern Rhine Army anti-aircraft defences, anti-tank weapons, ammunition transport and radios, which, officers say, are so old or so scarce that they make a mockery of ministerial statements about the state of readiness of British forces assigned to NATO.

The allegations in detail, and rebuttals by senior army sources

with recent operational experience in Germany, are given below.

However, they come at a time when not only Service pay is causing concern to soldiers. Last week a seminar on Britain's reserve forces, held at the Royal United Service Institute in Whitehall, heard officers venting criticisms.

It was pointed out at the seminar that Britain has no real reserve, since all our reserves, on mobilisation, would be sent to make up serious deficiencies in the regular order of battle.

Moreover, officers still serving as reservists warned the seminar that their units were equipped with such old-fashioned weapons that there

were no spares for them, or that they had to rely on assurances that modern equipment would be available for them on mobilisation, although they had never trained with it.

The allegations about the Rhine Army's equipment and the rebuttals are as follows: Anti-aircraft defences: The Rapier anti-aircraft missile is the Army's only air defence, yet the British Corps has only two Rapier regiments to defend its entire area. It has no effective means of transport or protection for the missile crews. When Britain tried to sell the missile overseas, Middle Eastern governments bought it only on condition that the system could be augmented with American-built armoured tracked carriers for transport and protection.

Comment: Rapier was designed to be air-portable for Britain's global

requirements, so there was no armoured chassis available for its deployment with the Rhine Army, although that will probably be produced in time. A third artillery regiment is equipping with Rapier, RAF airfields are defended by the RAF Regiment with Rapier, and further air defence would be provided in an emergency by volunteer reserve units with guns and the Blowpipe missile.

Anti-tank: (a) M72 60mm rocket. In the opinion of most infantrymen who have to use it, it is hopelessly, even dangerously, out of date and frequently fails to detonate.

(b) The same criticisms apply to the 82mm Carl Gustav rocket. Comment: Those short-range weapons have recognized limitations. The Army is due to declare a replacement. The delay has been caused by technical evolution of a difficult weapon system.

(c) Milan. Although due to replace the aging Wombat recoilless gun, it will not reach most battalions until the mid-1980s, leaving them without any effective anti-tank capability for up to seven years.

Comment: Training with Milan has now started at the School of Infantry. It is a first-generation medium-range weapon that has required much research. It will be produced as quickly as possible, but might be introduced more rapidly if the political situation deteriorated.

Chieftain tank: Because of cuts in the defence budget, officers have been told there are no spare engines for the Chieftains located in Germany in spite of that tank's widespread engine trouble. When tanks break down on exercise, they have to be towed back to camp and left, while the crews have to replace them.

Comment: The Chieftain's engine

Stonehouse report criticizes advisers

By Nicholas Hirst

Department of Trade inspectors have made strong criticisms of Sir Charles Hardie, a leading accountant and former chairman of BOAC, and Mr Eric Levine, a City solicitor, in their report on the Stonehouse case, which Mr John Stonehouse, the jailed Labour Minister, built up five years ago.

The inspectors, Mr Ian Hay Davidson, a chartered accountant, and Mr Michael Sheppard, QC, say Mr Stonehouse's companies "were saturated with offences, irregularities and improprieties of one kind or another."

"The prime mover undoubtedly was Mr Stonehouse, who was concerned in the execution and attempted concealment of almost all" the irregular schemes...

Sir Charles and Mr Levine are criticized for their role in the preparation of the audit for the first seven trading months of London Capital Group, the company which Mr Stonehouse set up to finance close links with the emerging Bangladesh nation.

The inspectors say it was clear that, at least 25 per cent of total loans outstanding at June 30 of £748,000 were represented by loan accounts of the directors and associated companies.

Mr Levine quite wrongly advised that the directors' report need not refer to the loans in question because each loan contract should be considered separately and its materiality judged in isolation...

Sir Charles Hardie, despite explicit advice to the contrary from his own legal adviser, quite wrongly capitulated to the view that settlement of the loans would obviate the need to disclose them in the accounts.

Dixon Wilson, Sir Charles's firm, were auditors to BBT, in contrast to the criticisms of the 1973 audit, his firm is praised for its persistence in revealing the "extensive improprieties" a year later.

As a result of their findings the inspectors make a number of recommendations, some of which have been followed up in the recent White Paper on directors' responsibilities.

These include: a change in the definition of "director".

Continued on page 17, col 4



Chairman Hsu Kuo-feng (in light jacket) helps volunteers to dig the site for a dam at Ma-yun, 40 miles north-east of Peking.

Call to tape-record suspects' interviews

The police should tape-record their interviews with suspects and only confessors supported by recordings should be the basis for a conviction, a report by Sir Henry Fisher, a former High Court judge, says today.

Sir Henry has been investigating for two years the circumstances leading to the trial and conviction of three youths after the death of a transsexual homosexual prostitute, Maxwell Confait, in his home at Catford, London. His report criticises the preparation of the prosecution case.

It recommends a tightening of the Judges' Rules on investigations, including use of a new police caution to make clearer that a suspect is entitled to say nothing.

"So long as there is no supporting evidence for a confession the police should not automatically conclude their inquiries on the assumption that the confession is true but should continue other inquiries until they are satisfied that all alternatives have been excluded", it says.

Sir Henry says the police do not see it as their duty to initiate inquiries that might sug-

gest they had got the wrong man, or that for some other reason the prosecution should fail. Nobody outside the police "regards it as his duty to spur the police on to question the case and to follow lines of inquiry which might be inconsistent with it", he adds.

"There have been enough cases of police misbehaviour in England to give rise to suspicion when events such as these in the Confait case occur, and to justify a reconsideration of the control exercised over police interrogation."

He urges changes to ensure that the whole evidence is evaluated in a critical way in the DPP's office. He also says that pathologists, whose evidence in the Confait case did not make clear information that was vital for one defence alibi, should see any witness's statement that might be relevant to time of death.

Mr David McNea, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, last night welcomed the fact that some speculative criticisms, made before the report's publication, had proved unfounded.

Report and reaction, page 4

Two French nuns kidnapped in Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, Dec 13.—Two French nuns involved in human rights activities have been kidnapped by armed civilians claiming to be members of Argentine security forces, the French Consul here said today.

Sister Alicia Domon, aged 40, of the Order of Foreign Missionaries, was snatched from her home in central Buenos Aires on Thursday night and Sister Leonie Duquet, aged 59, was taken away on Saturday morning.—Reuters.

Two men from it forced the occupants of the escort vehicle at gunpoint to go to the armoured van. At the same time a green Mark II Cortina drove across the road and two men ran to the cash carrier and fired a shot through the windscreen. They also fired shots at the official tyres.

They cut open the side of the cash carrier with a mechanical metal grinder.

After the raid, in which the gang used five vehicles, the gunmen left in the box van. The driver dropped about five men where a bridge crossed the M1 about a mile away. He parked the van in Beech Tree Lane, between Leverstock Green and St Albans, ran across a garden, and joined the rest of the gang on the M1. They drove towards London in the escape vehicle.

Israeli and Egyptian peace teams hold first meeting

From Edward Mortimer

Direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel began here today with a one-and-a-half hour informal meeting devoted to discussion of procedure for tomorrow's formal opening of the Cairo peace conference.

The meeting took place over coffee and cakes in the wing occupied by the Egyptian delegation in the Mensa House Hotel, near the pyramids. The host was the head of the Egyptian delegation, Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid, who is Egypt's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Also present on the Egyptian side was Dr Osama el Baz, a high-ranking diplomat who was one of the party accompanying President Sadat on his visit to Israel last month.

Israel was represented by its head of delegation, Mr Elihu Ben Elissur, who is director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and Dr Meir Rosenne, legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Neither the United Nations nor the United States was represented, although both will be present at the formal conference.

ings were concerned purely with the agenda for the conference as a whole, which is to be decided at the first closed session tomorrow.

This is to be preceded by a public meeting which will be opened by Dr Abdel Meguid, while as the head of the host country will also act as chairman throughout the conference. After him, each of the other three heads of delegation will make a short speech, in alphabetical order.

There will be no observers at the conference, which Dr Sadat described as an informal preparatory meeting to pave the way for the resumption of the Geneva conference and to get rid of procedural matters which may entangle it.

The Israeli delegates arrived in Cairo this morning on a special El Al flight and were driven to the conference hotel through a city festooned with banners.

Public places had been draped with Egyptian flags, but there were no Israeli flags and no messages in Hebrew. Nor were there any watching crowds since it had been announced—presumably for security reasons—that the delegates would be taken to the hotel by helicopter.

Vance rebuff in Syria, page 6

Relying on America, page 14

Firemen will reject pay offer today

The employers' latest offer, of a pay formula to take effect over two years, will be rejected today by the Fire Brigades Union executive as a way of ending the strike.

Some firemen voted to accept the offer, but the biggest brigades, including London and Greater Manchester, rejected it. The union is expected to await reports from its officials before taking action over the clashes at Epping on Monday between pickets and part-time firemen.

Pay policy condemned

The Society of Civil and Public Servants has condemned the finance and general purposes committee of the TUC for condoning "Government attempts to impose an arbitrary and discriminatory incomes policy in the public sector". It says the committee's decision not to support the firemen's strike was contrary to TUC policy, and calls for its reversal.

Critical Rhodesia talks

Settlement talks between the Rhodesian Government and three internally based nationalist movements will reach a critical stage today. The meeting could decide whether the talks can be split into separate committees to discuss details or whether they will stall on the Government's insistence on a third of a future parliament's seats being held by whites.

Output drop points to rise in unemployment

Industrial production shows no signs of picking up, despite the economic stimulus given by Mr Healey in the summer. The implication of Government figures, which showed that industrial production fell by about 11 per cent in October, is that unemployment will probably rise this winter.

Spy inquiry in Bonn

A senior adviser in the West German Ministry of Defence is being investigated as a result of the disclosure that vital military secrets have been passed to East Germany. The adviser's former secretary was allegedly the key figure in the spy ring.

Spassky blunders

A blunder by Boris Spassky, former world chess champion, drew gasps of dismay from spectators in Belgrade and brought him another defeat at the hands of Viktor Korchakov. Korchakov now leads 6-2 in the match to decide who will play Anatoly Karpov for the world title.

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HOME NEWS

Inquiry into Confait killing five years ago criticizes police breaches of Judges' Rules

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The prolonged controversy over the conduct of the police and the findings of the courts in the case of Maxwell Confait, the homosexual prostitute murdered at Catford, London, in 1972, took a surprising new twist yesterday with the report of the Fisher inquiry.

The findings of the inquiry by Sir Henry Fisher, President of Wolfson College, Oxford, and a former High Court Judge, differ in important respects from those of both previous court hearings.

Three youths were freed by the Court of Appeal in 1975 after being convicted in 1972 on charges arising out of Mr Confait's death and a fire at 27 Doggett Road, Catford, where his body was found by firemen.

Sir Henry finds that on the balance of probabilities the most likely explanation is that all three youths took part in the arson of which they were convicted by the trial court; that Ronald Leighton and Ahmet Salih were involved in the killing, in relation to which Mr Salih never stood trial; and that Colin Lattimore, who was convicted of manslaughter by the trial court, was not involved in the killing.

The Court of Appeal, on a reference by the Home Secretary of the day, quashed the convictions of the three youths on the ground that their confessions were unreliable in the light of expert evidence and so were unsafe and unsatisfactory.

Mr Lattimore (aged 18 at the time of Mr Confait's death) was acquitted of manslaughter because of diminished responsibility; Mr Leighton (then aged 15) of murder; and Mr Salih (then aged 14) of arson.

The Court of Appeal decision is not affected by Sir Henry's findings. The courts have been satisfied with the burden of proof beyond reasonable doubt.

In a parliamentary written reply yesterday Mr Rees, Home Secretary, said: "Sir Henry makes it clear that in coming to these conclusions he was not bound by the verdict of the jury or the judgment of the Court of Appeal, that the arguments addressed to him were not in all respects the same as those

put to the courts and that he had available to him a great deal of evidence which was not before the courts."

In his report Sir Henry criticizes the conduct of the police investigation, including the interviewing of the youths in the absence of their parents, and certain specific breaches of the Judges' Rules.

He rejects, however, other allegations about the way in which the youths' confessions were obtained and finds that allegations that the police had assaulted them were untrue.

Sir Henry also suggests an amendment of the wording of the police caution to make its legal meaning plain. The evidence he had heard suggested that persons to whom the caution was addressed often did not understand that what they were being told was that they were under no obligation to answer questions put by the police and would not be harming their case in any way if they did not answer.

Sir Henry's report says that on April 24, 1972, during separate interviews with Detective Chief Superintendent Alan Bennett, who was in charge of the investigation, Colin Lattimore and Ronald Leighton confessed to having taken part in the killing of Mr Confait. Ahmet Salih confessed to having been present. All three boys confessed to having taken part in the arson at 27 Doggett Road.

Later in the evening of April 24, and during the early hours of April 25, each of the boys repeated his confession in a written statement made in the presence of one of his parents, and in the case of Salih in the presence also of an interpreter. Mr Lattimore's father and Mr Leighton's mother signed statements expressing satisfaction with the way in which the statements were taken.

"In their evidence at the trial all three boys alleged on oath that they had been physically assaulted by a police officer," Sir Henry's report says. "These allegations were repeated in evidence before me by Salih and by Lattimore. I find that the allegations were untrue."

I find that no police officer deliberately falsified the record

of oral answers given by the three boys to questions. The police officers tried to record as accurately as possible the questions and the answers given and the written statements made by the boys. The records are substantially accurate in all relevant respects."

Sir Henry finds that the fire at 27 Doggett Road was probably started shortly before 1.10 am on April 22, 1972, and could not have been started before 12.45 am. He also finds that Mr Confait died not later than midnight, April 21-22, and probably died before 10.30 pm on April 21.

"I accept the evidence that Lattimore was at the Salvation Army Torchbearers youth club from about 7.30 pm to about 11.30 pm. I find that he was not present at and did not take part in the killing of Confait."

"I find that Leighton and Salih could have been present at and taken part in the killing of Confait and that all three boys could have taken part in setting fire to 27 Doggett Road. I find that the confessions could not have been made as they were unless at least one of the three boys had been involved in the killing of Confait and in the arson at 27 Doggett Road."

Sir Henry finds that there were the following breaches of the Judges' Rules and Home Office administrative directions:

Mr Leighton, Mr Salih, were interviewed by police officers without the presence of a parent or guardian or someone who was not a police officer, although it would have been practicable to delay the interviews until their mothers or some other person who was not a police officer could be brought there.

When the three boys were taken into custody they were not formed orally of the rights and facilities available to them, namely to communicate with their solicitor or their friends, and to consult privately a solicitor, provided that no unreasonable delay or hindrance was reasonably likely to be caused to the processes of investigation or to the administration of justice by their doing so. Nor were their statements drawn to the notice describing the rights and facilities available to them.

During the taking of a written statement from Mr Lattimore, he was prompted, and questions were asked which were not needed

to make the statement coherent, intelligible or relevant to the material matters.

Sir Henry says that some of the Judges' Rules and directions do not seem to be known to police officers and members of the legal profession.

Steps should be taken to see that the rules and directions are known by all police officers and members of the legal profession.

Sir Henry suggests that it should be made a rule of law that no person should be convicted on the evidence of a confession obtained in any of the following circumstances unless that evidence is supported by other evidence not obtained in any of such circumstances:

A confession obtained, in response to questioning by the police, by means of a breach of the Judges' Rules or administrative directions, whether or not the effect of the breach was to make the confession "involuntary".

A confession made by a child or young person in response to questioning by the police without the presence of a parent, guardian or other person not a police officer.

A confession made by a mentally handicapped person (whether or not known to be so at the time) in response to questioning by the police without the presence of a parent, guardian or other person not a police officer.

An oral confession made in a police station (whether the maker was in custody or not) of which a tape-recording is not available.

Mr Rees said yesterday that he and the Attorney General would arrange for Sir Henry's report to be laid before the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure for examination. The possible implementation of a number of suggestions that did not raise matters of basic principle could be considered by the Government before the commission finished its work.

Sir Henry says in his report that the general observation he has made should be understood as referring solely to prosecutions conducted by the Director of Public Prosecutions in cases that are to be tried in a Crown Court.

Report of an Inquiry by the Hon Sir Henry Fisher into the Circumstances Leading to the Trial of Three Persons on Charges Arising out of the Death of Maxwell Confait and the Fire at 27 Doggett Road, London, SE6 (Stationery Office: £3.50).

Better price display plea to butchers

By Hugh Clayton
Correspondent

A minister appealed to butchers yesterday to improve price displays for Christmas. Mr Robert MacLennan, Under-Secretary of State, Prices and Consumer Protection, pointed out that butchers would have to show prices a pound by March next year and appealed to those who had not yet made their permanent plans to consider making arrangements to cover the Christmas period.

Officials at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection have reported that most butchers are not yet quoting prices a pound for all cuts.

Call to restrict choice of school by parents

From Diana Geddes
Wolverhampton

The right of parents to have their children educated according to their wishes should be restricted, the metropolitan education authorities of England and Wales decided at their conference, at Wolverhampton, yesterday.

By 22 votes to 11 they voted to call on the Government to amend the Education Act, 1944, so as to avoid parental misunderstanding and disappointment over choice of school.

A representative from Hillingdon, London, said the law allowed a minority of parents to take roughshod over the

Losses threaten 'bread factories' of Britain's largest companies

By Hugh Clayton

Fewer than 80 loaves are being sold where 100 were sold a year ago and many of them are being baked at a loss. The bread companies, one of the most widely derided sections of the food processing industry, face the most serious of their many crises of the 1970s.

Their export consumption to drop by about a fifth every 12 months, but this year it has fallen much more. They attribute much of the extra drop to the September strike by bakery workers in which small independent bread shops were able to maintain supplies. Bakery workers are voting on further strike action about a wage claim.

Despite the growing popularity of crusty and wholemeal loaves baked behind small shops, the loaf is primarily a grocery sold among other competitive lines in supermarkets. More than half the loaves sold are white, sliced, wrapped, and held in stock by many grocers and food stores. Most loaves are made in what the industry calls "plant" bakeries, in which the latest technology is used to cut costs and reduce production time. In the stark definition of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in a

MP presses cases of 85 thalidomide children

Immediate action is needed to settle the cases of 85 thalidomide children still outstanding, Mr Jack Ashley, the Labour MP who campaigned for the original settlement for thalidomide children, said yesterday.

He was deeply disturbed to hear that those children, on whom the Government has agreed to pay compensation, are still without their money.

In a letter to Mr Robin Cater, chairman of the Disasters Company, which marketed thalidomide in Britain, Mr Ashley has asked for an urgent meeting.

He wrote that the Y children, now in their teens, "face a lifetime of poverty unless something is done, and I am writing to urge you to take immediate action". The Y list consists of children whose claims that the damage they suffered was through thalidomide are not as strong as those of children on the X list, who have been com-

MP who advised boys rejects guilt verdict

By Stewart Tindler

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, who campaigned for the three boys involved in the Confait case, said last night that, while he welcomed the general conclusions of the Fisher inquiry, he rejected Sir Henry Fisher's judgment on the guilt of the three boys.

Sir Henry has decided that Mr Colin Lattimore was involved in arson and that Mr Ronald Leighton and Mr Ahmet Salih were involved in the killing of Mr Maxwell Confait. In the report, Sir Henry says: "On the balance of probabilities, I find that this is what occurred."

But Mr Price, whose dogged defence of the boys forced the inquiry, said he completely disagreed with those conclusions. He said he had been allowed to see the evidence put before Sir Henry, and the latter's decision did not tally with the evidence he had heard.

Mr Price said that he wished in many ways that he had not advised them to take part in the inquiry, which had produced a different verdict from two previous examinations of the cases against them.

Mr Price said: "Sir Henry is talking about the balance of probabilities. I know these three boys and I know they are innocent."

Not all the evidence had been before Sir Henry, Mr Price said. He had recommended the boys' release on bail, and the Tavistock Institute about the way such boys would be affected by being in a police station in such circumstances. It was possible in such circumstances to put anything into a boy's head and the boy would accept it out.

On the other hand, Mr Price said he was pleased that the suggestions made by Sir Henry on the question of police inter-

Man in the news: Defector driven by intellectual restlessness

Academic with Bench and board-room experience

By Marcel Berlins

The legal establishment has never completely forgiven Sir Henry Fisher for having left the secure and cosseted world of the judiciary for the brasher commercial pastures of the City.

He did so, moreover, at a time when his prospects as a judge looked extremely rosy. He was appointed to the High Court in 1968 at the early age of 49, and there is little doubt that barring accidents, he would have become a judge in the Court of Appeal. He could, in all probability, have achieved even higher judicial eminence.

Sir Henry resigned from the Bench in 1970, after only two and a half years' service, and joined the board of Schroder, Wages, the merchant bankers, with whom he stayed until, in 1975, he became President of Wolfson College, Oxford, in succession to Sir Isaiah Berlin.

To most eyes, his move from the legal to the commercial world was inexplicable. Those who knew him better, however, saw it as consistent with an intellectual restlessness that constantly sought new challenges. His friends say that he left the Bench not so much for the money (although he probably more than doubled his pre-tax judicial salary) but because he became bored with much of the routine and unstimulating work he had to do as a judge.

Before his conversion Sir Henry had had an archaic but brilliant career, destined to take him to the top of his profession. The eldest son of Lord Fisher of Lambeth the former Archbishop of Canterbury, he was a distinguished classical scholar, Oxford, and later fellow of All Souls, served in the war and was called to the

Father opposed to caning loses appeal

A father's belief that corporal punishment was "cruel, unnecessary and detrimental to a child's development" was no excuse for his refusal to return his son, aged 14, to school to be caned for indiscipline. Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce said in the High Court yesterday.

"Although the father may regard the grounds of his refusal to send his son back to school as reasonable, they are not grounds that entitle a father, under the Education Act, 1944, to keep his child away from school," the judge said.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Park, agreed that the father's appeal against his conviction by magistrates at Croydon of failing to send his son regularly to school between certain dates last year should be dismissed.

The boy will not have to return to the school to be caned. He is now at a school where there is no caning.

Environmental cancers that elude detection

By a Staff Reporter

Methods of recording the incidence of cancer do not show up the emergence of new cancers attributable to new causes, Sir Richard Doll, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University, told the Royal Society in London yesterday.

"Any cancer produced by new environmental agents that was not also produced by other causes in the past would not appear in the records, as it would not have been coded separately," he said.

If cancer registries were to monitor the appearance of new diseases, they would need an extremely detailed coding system, capable of picking out, for example, liver cancers attributable to industrial exposure to vinyl chloride. One of 14 cases recorded since 1960 of angiosarcomas of the liver occurred in a man who had been a process worker in PVC manufacture. Another victim had lived within half a mile of the same factory.

Such cases came to light when suspicions raised by clinicians, pathologists and toxicologists were investigated.

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HOME NEWS

Optimism on new home for British Library

By a Staff Reporter

Lord Eccles, chairman of the board of the British Library, said yesterday that he hoped for greater approval in the coming year for the new home for the library in Euston Road, London.

Ministers concerned were convinced of the need, he said, but difficulties were caused by the economy. Nevertheless he believed permission would be given before the end of 1978.

Detailed plans for the new building, on the site of a disused railway yard, are being prepared. At present the library is hampered by severe shortage of space.

That is emphasized by the annual report, published yesterday. In 1976-77 the reference division acquired two million items, including 105,000 books, and 100,000 records, maps, official publications, manuscripts and newspapers.

Among the manuscript acquisitions were significant papers of Lord Liverpool, Sir Robert Peel and Lord Palmerston, and important material relating to George Eliot, George Gissing, George Bernard Shaw and Arnold Bennett.

The number of British requests received by the lending division was 2,570,000 last year, a 7 per cent increase over the previous year, but there was a much greater expansion in the use of the overseas service. 377,000 requests were received from 98 countries, a 26 per cent increase.

Dr Keith Barr, executive director of the lending division, said United Kingdom demand was near saturation; most libraries used the service and financial constraints precluded any great increase in the number of requests that could be handled.

The overseas service makes a small profit, and the library has been actively promoting it. The British Library, Fourth Annual Report 1976-77 (British Library, Press and Public Relations Section, Store Street, London, WC1E 7DG, free).

Dysentery at school

Sixteen pupils have dysentery at Searcroft Grange Primary School, Leeds, and 42 other cases are being investigated. The school, with 350 pupils, is being closed until after Christmas.

Early action promised on inner-city decay

From Our Correspondent Birmingham

Early action to breathe life into the decaying inner areas of some of Britain's cities was promised yesterday by Mr Ffreeson, Minister for Housing and Construction. He was chairman at the first of several inner-city partnership committee meetings in Birmingham, one of seven cities involved in government-backed plans to reverse urban decline. Similar meetings have already been held in four other cities.

Mr Ffreeson said Birmingham had been allocated £2.5m under the urban programme for next year, which would lay the

groundwork while the inner-area programme was prepared. Over three years to 1982, £30m had been set aside for the city's inner areas.

The minister said a range of interested bodies would be consulted. A policy document would go out from the initial meeting and at the next meeting, in February, he hoped there would be a full discussion on how community involvement could be organized.

Meetings would be kept to the smallest number of people necessary to do the work. "There has to be a job of work done and to do that we cannot have large gatherings", he said.

£40m EEC scheme for better Irish border links

A £40m programme to improve road and telephone links between Ulster and the north-west of the Irish Republic is outlined in a report published yesterday.

It recommends a new £14m bridge across the Foyle in Londonderry and an airport near Londonderry to link with Dublin.

The report has been drawn up by consultants appointed under EEC auspices by the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland governments. Finance for carrying out the proposals will be shared equally by the EEC and the two governments.

The study area covered Londonderry and district in Northern Ireland, and the north and east of Co Donegal in the Republic. The report suggests a further programme of road improvements after the mid-1980s.

The unemployment level on both sides of the border is 17 per cent and there is a high rate of emigration. The report says: "The job of promoting the region to industrialists and tourists had been made unenviable and almost impossible."

"It is the duty of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland into the EEC in 1973 that has opened up new opportunities for a coordinated approach to regional planning in north-west Ireland."

Call for inquiry under Police Act is rejected

By Our Parliamentary Staff

A public inquiry under the Police Act was not justified in the case of Mr Liddle Towers, aged 39, an electrician and amateur boxing coach, who died after alleged police violence, Dr Shirley Summerskill, Under-Secretary, Home Office, said in an adjournment debate in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour MP for Chester-le-Street, said Mr Towers was allegedly assaulted after his arrest on January 15, 1976, in his constituency. He died on February 9, 1976, in hospital.

Man loses claim to share in ex-mistress's house

Mr Rex Nightingale, aged 62, father of 12 children, has no legal rights in the £24,000 house he shared with his former mistress for 16 years, Mr Justice Fox decided in the High Court yesterday.

When they built the house at Lakeside, Portway Drive, Croughton, near Brackley, Northamptonshire, Mr Nightingale agreed that it should be in the name of his mistress, Mrs Denise Nightingale, aged 39, a teacher, the judge said. He could not go back on that.

Mr Nightingale, of Kings Sutton, Banbury, said: "I still love her. I think there is every chance we might get together again if her mother moves away." He said his mistress and her mother, a Jehovah's Witness, had conspired to get him out of the house.

Man dead in flat

Mr Hideo Mulder, aged 73, was found dead in a flat at Ilford, London, yesterday. A woman aged 65, believed to be suffering from a drug overdose, was also in the flat.

Mrs Jones broke into a discussion group at Cleeve House, Seend, to ask: "Why is it necessary to use methods of indoctrination which alienate members from their homes, families, studies and entire previous way of life?"

She went on to say that the conflict between the teaching of the Unification Church and Karen Seid's normal way of life had resulted in her daughter's having a severe emotional breakdown. "My daughter was continually under pressure from a strict religious form at school while studying for A levels before university entrance", she said.

Mrs Jones has a thick file of letters to show how she has been harassed by the Home Office, the Charity Commissioners and the local police about the Unification Church.

The Times has evidence from parents and disaffected members of the Moon sect that Karen Seid's case is repeated, with slight variations, over and over again.

Dr James Beckford, who is a lecturer in sociology at Durham University and has made a study of the Moonies and other fringe religions, wrote in *Psychology Today* (August, 1976): "The typical recruit in this country is aged between 18 and 23, has completed at least a sixth-form course, comes from middle or lower-middle class background and has always had a respect for religion."

A few of the earliest recruits here had dabbled in drug-taking and other aspects of the youth culture. But nowadays it is unlikely that recruits will have shown any prior inclination to non-conformist behaviour.

On the other hand, it is common for young people who are having difficulties with their studies or who are finding it hard to adjust to life away from home for the first time to be easily caught up in Moon's recruiting net. They often respond eagerly to the offers of friendship and food at a family centre. Their defences may lack the resilience of people with a clearer sense of self-identity.

He adds: "... Members are virtually forbidden to remain in touch with their families and are taught to regard relatives who do try to remove them from the sect as 'Satanic'. Relations with the families are usually severed completely."

The situation is occasionally aggravated when a recruit is persuaded to consign all his or her property over to the Unification Church. Some families have lost both persons and property to the Unification Church.



Mr Moon: "Love towards the Lord."

two years (when he was in Europe singing with the UC choir) but he still has his sense of humour. Being dedicated does not seem to have knocked it out of him. I wrote to him wherever he was.

Mrs Mary Barlow, of Streatham, London, had two children who are members of the Unification Church and have married within it. They are Richard, aged 30, and Nicola, aged 28.

She says: "They all work for everyone. They are working for a small seed and a small start. It is sacrificial. What they earn they put back into things they can all share, which is what the world does not do. The church is small here, and new. The members are keen to create centres and eventually hospitals."

"I do not think they are brainwashed, for they leave for different reasons. Some join idealistically and then get bored. 'Nor are the members pressurized. Some people feel their children should be headed for a profession, but parents should not stand in the way of what their children want.'"

Mr and Mrs Rees, of Oxford, have a daughter, Veronica, aged 26, who is a Moonie. Mrs Rees said: "My fears are rather nameless. You get this feeling of unease. The members think they are working for God, but I think they are slaves."

"In the beginning we were terribly upset and ill. We were not allowed in the centres. Gradually I have built up their confidence, but they are wary of me."

Mrs Diana Jones, however, has seen only the dark side of the Moon sect. Her daughter, Karen Seid, now 21, was still at school when a Moon member persuaded her to join the church.

No ban on 'The Times'

Lawyers for Mr Dennis Orme, leader of the Unification Church in Britain and director of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, a British-registered charity, attempted in the High Court yesterday to prevent *The Times* from publishing the third of its articles

on the Unification Church, or Moon cult. Counsel for Mr Orme decided not to proceed with the application to say he had found a legal adviser to Times Newspapers Ltd, that the newspaper intended justifying those parts of the first two articles about which Mr Orme complained.

Stay over

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The Moon cult, 3: Training manual's advice about parents

Men with short hair and well scrubbed faces

By Diana Parr

Members of the Moon cult are forbidden sexual intercourse before marriage, intercourse with a "sister" or "brother" within the movement is an unforgivable sin.

Men and women in the cult are "married" or blessed by Mr Moon, usually large numbers of couples at a time and after they have been members of the movement for about three years. The cult teaches: "Husband and wife must feel stronger love towards the Lord (Moon) than between themselves."

The number seven is symbolic, according to Mr Moon, who is something of a numerologist. "Married couples must abstain from the marriage relationship for at least seven months. There are those in Korea who have been abstaining for over seven years and live as sister and brother."

"Those whom God loves just cannot continue their mission without life. God strikes at their bodies and they cannot continue."

The teaching of the Unification Church is a sort of evangelical cocktail, with an ingredient of what many would regard as sheer lunacy.

James Björnsdottir, in his book *The Moon is not the Son*, describes it thus: "Start with a well seasoned Messianic philosophy, add plenty of Christian words and phrases and even some Bible verses, and stir briskly until they blend together."

"Now add a bit of spiritism, not too much mysticism, a pinch of numerology, a dab of physics and a dash of anti-communism; mix it all together using a Korean Messiah until it bleeds, and you have the recipe for one of the new religious movements, the Unification Church founded by the Rev Sun Myung Moon."

The self-styled Messiah, born to a Presbyterian family in 1920 in the Pungang Buk-do province of what is now North Korea. After the Second World War he became involved in an underground Pentecostal movement of an extreme nature in Pyongyang.

That group believed Korea was the new Jerusalem of the Bible and that the Messiah would be born in Korea. Those elements are to be found in Mr Moon's *Divine Principle*.

Moon teaches that Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden to marry and produce perfect children free of sin. But Eve committed fornication with Lucifer, causing the spiritual fall of mankind.

Whereas Christianity teaches that Jesus will return to Earth, Moon teaches that a Messiah, a man, will return as the Lord of the Second Advent.

A new age dawned in 1960, the year that Mr Moon married his new wife. The Lord of the Second Advent and his new wife became the true parents of mankind. It is that teaching above all that makes this religious cocktail so explosive. Parents who attack the Unification Church are called "Satanic". The two secret 120-day training manual instructs members to have contact with parents "before they start to investigate the UC", so that they "feel peaceful and joy-

ful". They will not feel the necessity to investigate the church because they are so busy.

"Next method is to invite parents to your city centre... Maybe singing songs and smiling can create a warm atmosphere."

The training manual has explicit instructions on how to react when a mother cries. "When he called his mother she cried. He came back to the centre and said I cannot move in. He could not deny the Messiah, but he could not move in because of his parents."

"I waited for a while until he became calm and I talked this way. 'Let us think what is true love. What is true love towards parents, to move in or quit Unification Church. If you quit the UC and resume school, then your parents will be happy. But how long can they be happy?'"

"If it is true that the Messiah is here and that his mission will surely be successful, then in several years the UC movement will cover America and all over the world. Sooner or later your parents will understand what the UC is. Then how will they feel if they stopped you from joining? They will regret it."

Members who go pioneer witnessing are recommended to use Holy Salt to separate them from Satan. "We sanctify or Holy Salt the new room, the new house, food, clothing, cars, bicycles, everything so we can offer them before God."

Then follow explicit instructions for making salt holy, with the direction that plain salt is better than iodized.

Members are also taught that "heavenly deception" is allowed.

But there is a lighter side to the Moon cult, which I witnessed when I went to Cleeve House, Seend, near Devizes, one of the Unification Church's residential centres. I went as an uninvited guest, posing as a friend of Mrs Diana Jones, of Okehampton, Devon, who has been campaigning for four years to get her daughter, Karen Seid, away from the cult.

The atmosphere at Cleeve House is like that of a hearty boarding school. The meals, thin slices of pork pie, rissoles and Camp Coffee, added to the illusion.

For the most part the young men have short back and sides haircuts and well scrubbed faces; the girls wear little or no make-up. They all smile, the friendly overtures seem genuine and there is a gut feeling of good will and sincerity. There are songs with guitar accompaniment before meals. I met two mothers who were content to have their children members of the church.

Mrs Alison Farrow, of Tebburn St Mary, Devon, has a son, Nicholas, aged 22, who has travelled widely with the Moonies. He was in Plymouth when he met members of the sect and telephoned his mother to say he had found "a fantastic religious group."

Mrs Farrow said: "I went to lunch with the Plymouth group and found them sweet, gentle and nice. I did not see him for

Dear Times reader,
The last posting dates for Christmas mail are:

PARCELS ——— DEC 17

7p post ——— DEC 18

9p post ——— DEC 20

but it would help the postman if you could post before these dates if possible. And if you've anything large to post on December 17, or need stamps, please call at the Post Office in the morning.

Tommy Steele

P.S. Please pack parcels carefully and use the Postcode—Happy Christmas.



Royal Mail

WEST EUROPE

Strasbourg
MPs' threat
to reject
EEC budget

From David Wood
Strasbourg, Dec 13
Asserting its equal power over the EEC budget for 1978, the European Parliament today threatened to precipitate a political crisis on Thursday by refusing to accept budget cuts, particularly in the regional fund.

Both the regional committee and the budget committee of the Parliament have taken a stand against the cuts. There are to be discussions between parliamentarians and the Council of Ministers in the hope that a compromise can be found.

If the Parliament were to reject the budget, the 1977 budget would apply in 1978, and one twelfth of the total would be paid out month by month during the year, that has never happened before.

British MPs and Mr Tugendhat, the British Commissioner for the Budget, are the leading figures in the dispute. Tugendhat, in his first year as a commissioner, enlisted Parliament's support to resist cuts by the Council of Ministers earlier in the year, but he is now urging caution.

The regional committee, led by Mr John Evans, Labour MP for Newton, voted unanimously to resist the Council cuts. The budget committee, with Mr Michael Shaw, Conservative MP for Scarborough, as rapporteur, overwhelmingly supported the regional committee, mainly because the Council was thought to be too patronising in its dealings with Parliament.

For the Council, Mr Tugendhat, its Belgian president, said that if the cuts were not accepted by Parliament there was a risk of a serious conflict. No budget would be approved before 1978 began, and all Community policies, in the year of direct elections, would become impossible, damaging the credibility of both Council and Parliament.

Mr Tugendhat, urging a compromise in the next two days, said that budget processes had reached a stage where political talk over from economic.

The episode indicates a growing spirit of political militancy within the Parliament, but a compromise looks probable.

Parliamentary report, page 8.

Madrid bomb in
protest at
Tenerife death

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, Dec 13

Canary Islands separatists exploded a bomb in Madrid today as demonstrators took to the streets in protest against the death of a student shot when police opened fire yesterday during disturbances on the island of Tenerife.

Riot police units arrived in the Canary Islands today to reinforce detachments of the security police and the civil guard. In Santa Cruz, the island's capital, and other towns in Tenerife police guarded government offices, newspapers and other key points.

During the tense night that followed the student's death, attackers fired from a car at a civil guard patrol car and a post near Santa Cruz.

The victim was Javier Fernandez Quesada, a psychology student who was 22. His parents arrived in Tenerife today and were expected to accompany their son's body home to Las Palmas on the neighbouring island of Gran Canaria.

The Madrid bomb caused damage at a travel agency. According to the police only one of the seven sticks of explosives it contained went off. Telephone calls to newspapers and news agencies the movement for the Autonomy and Independence of the Canary Islands claimed responsibility. The caller identified himself as Antonio Cubillo, the movement's leader.

CHRISTMAS
& NEW YEAR
TRAIN SERVICES

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DEC	
22	Many additional trains will run to augment existing services.
23	Normal Saturday service with some reduced late evening services and no overnight services.
24	No service, except for certain Glasgow suburban services.
25	Special Boxing Day service on certain routes from about 10.00 hrs - no overnight services. See special leaflet.
26	Southern Region - reduced Sunday service
27	Other Regions - weekday service with reduced peak hour services
28	Weekday service with reduced peak hour services.
29	Normal Saturday service - no overnight services.
30	
31	Normal Saturday service - no overnight services.
JAN	
1	Scottish Region - no service (except for certain Glasgow Suburban services) and no overnight Anglo-Scottish services.
2	Other Regions - Sunday service, but no Anglo-Scottish services.
3	Southern Region - reduced Sunday service
4	Other Regions - weekday service with reduced peak hour services
5	Scottish Region - reduced weekday service
6	Other Regions - normal services.



Entente at the joint press conference: Mr Callaghan and M Giscard d'Estaing flanked by Mr Healey and M Barre.

Bonn defence adviser suspended in spy inquiry 'Du' judged not so offensive in a market

From Patricia Clough
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OVERSEAS

Rhodesian settlement talks reach a critical stage today

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Dec 13

Settlement talks between the Rhodesian Government and three internally based nationalist movements are expected to reach a critical stage tomorrow when the four parties meet for the fourth round of discussions in the present series.

Sources close to the conference said that tomorrow's meeting could determine whether sufficient agreement had been reached for the parties to be dissolved into separate committees to discuss points of detail, or whether the talks were going to stall on the white government's insistence on a "blocking third" in a future national assembly.

According to these sources, Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, is demanding that whites should hold 43 of the 127 seats in a new national assembly elected on the basis of one man, one vote. He is also insisting that elections should be based on separate black and white voters rolls. The remaining 84 seats in the assembly would be held by blacks elected by an exclusively black electorate.

Members of the nationalist groups taking part—the United African National Council (UANC) led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the African National Council (ANC) headed by the Rev Ndlovu—were unhappy about the racial basis for such a blocking mechanism. A leading member of the UANC delegation at the talks said today that Mr Smith was trying to give the approval of the white electorate as a result of the present negotiations.

It is the only genuine safeguard against a "blocking third", the source said. "Any other written guarantee can be torn up immediately after independence as happened in other African countries."

Conference sources remain optimistic that the "blocking third" issue will not prove insurmountable. If this issue

can be resolved, they point out, then agreement should be relatively easy on most of the other constitutional safeguards being sought by the whites, except perhaps the question of the armed forces.

According to a nationalist source, the Rhodesian Government has put forward a list of eight constitutional safeguards for approval by the nationalists. Four have been agreed. Differences of opinion have been expressed on another three but these are likely to be resolved tomorrow. Only on the eighth, the "blocking third", is there an open disagreement.

The safeguards include a Bill of Rights, an independent judiciary, career safeguards for civil servants and members of the armed forces, guarantees on pensions and a limited right to dual citizenship.

At the moment, matters relating to the role of the security forces have been referred to the question of career safeguards for white regular soldiers. Controversial questions such as the disbandment of certain units or the inclusion of guerrillas in the existing forces have not been raised.

According to nationalist sources, if broad agreement is reached this week a number of committees will be set up to discuss detailed aspects of the constitutional proposals. One committee has already been formed and is to discuss whether the voting age should be set at 18 or 21. Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Ndlovu both support an age limit of 18. Mr Ndlovu is also in favour of a principle which would allow the voting age to be lowered to 16.

Government sources, however, insist that Mr Smith cannot give way on his demand for a "blocking third" if he is to gain the approval of the white electorate for any settlement achieved as a result of the present negotiations.

Conference sources remain optimistic that the "blocking third" issue will not prove insurmountable. If this issue

UN call for mandatory oil embargo on S Africa

By David Soman Diplomatic Correspondent

After hearing new evidence that the South African subsidiaries of the five western oil companies, accused of sanctions breaking in Rhodesia—Mobil, Caltex, Total, Shell, and BP—are still supplying oil to Rhodesia, the United Nations General Assembly has decided to call for a mandatory oil embargo against South Africa.

The vote, taken on Monday night, was 112-0 with 10 abstentions, including the five Western members of the Security Council. The resolution now goes to the General Assembly.

According to confidential information recently given to the United Nations, the companies, on oil being transported by the oil companies' subsidiaries, either directly or through intermediary companies, to a storage depot at Messina, 10 miles south of the Rhodesian-South African border.

It is then sent across the Beit Bridge border point into Rhodesia by road and rail by all five of the South African companies.

The information comes from a report to the Fourth Committee made by the Haslemere Group, a study group in London which has provided most of the material available on Rhodesian oil supplies.

The five Western oil companies in South Africa, the Haslemere report adds, cooperate extremely closely. On last Thursday a feast month they came together in what is known as the "industry meeting", at which matters discussed include the sale of oil to Rhodesia. The meeting is chaired by the South African subsidiary of British Petroleum.

The British Government has viewed the alleged sanction breaking on oil with concern, but has up to now taken a fairly cautious attitude. The oil companies themselves have maintained that their subsidiaries in South Africa are not under their control and are subject to South African law. South Africa, of course, does not prohibit trade with Rhodesia.

Why former Prime Minister is prepared to risk a martyr's death King of Nepal shows he sees need for reform

From Richard Wigg Kathmandu, Dec 13

No one I could find in Kathmandu seems ready to believe that Mr B. P. Koirala, Nepal's social democratic former Prime Minister, will be executed if he is found guilty at his forthcoming trial before a special tribunal on six charges of treason and one of sedition.

But the veteran leader of the banned Nepali Congress, by returning home last month from New York in the middle of critical treatment for throat cancer, has made it clear that he is prepared to risk a martyr's death in order to gain at least a moral victory in his struggle to restore parliamentary democracy to Nepal after almost 17 years of the panchayat system of indirect rule.

King Birendra does not have time on his side, as Mr Koirala calculated when he decided not to leave Nepal's politics when he was released last June after seven months' arrest and helped finance his journey for treatment abroad.

An American doctor in Kathmandu, who has been allowed to see or examine him personally, has set January or February as the latest time for Mr Koirala's return to New York for a second operation.

The best scenario for the King's standpoint would appear to be a quick trial in the next few weeks, followed by a royal pardon, and then swift dispatch of Mr Koirala abroad again. His trial is being watched closely, not only in India where important elements of the Janata Government have long campaigned for his release, but by Herr Willy Brandt, President of the Socialist International and, one assumes for its essential human rights aspect, by President Carter. His possible death if the trial dragged on, would be a dangerous step backwards by the regime.

In a year which has seen political upheavals affecting all of his neighbours, the King has shown that he senses the panchayat system is in need of reform. Nepal since 1975 has had its single official political movement, the "Back to the village" national campaign. This experiment in organic decentralisation has been overwhelmingly successful in representing established interests unable to adapt to change. Hence the King's public case for an injection of pure genuine popular participation.

The King has been releasing Nepali political prisoners, including some prominent Opposition figures, so that there

are now estimated to be about 100 left behind bars.

Nepal's middle class is very small—agriculture still accounts for 90 per cent of all jobs—and the teachers, university students, lawyers and engineers who provide what is both a generation and a political protest against the system face repression quite as tough as in India during Mrs Gandhi's emergency.

In Kathmandu on the night of Mrs Gandhi's spectacular defeat in the March general election, thousands of homes stayed tuned in throughout the night to All-India Radio. The Nepalese elections in four administrative zones at about the same time passed unnoticed.

Mr Koirala's followers say they intend to prepare during the next six months for a campaign of Gandhian non-violent protest. So do some more left-wing and younger groups.

Disent here is weak from an organisational standpoint. That is natural under a regime that has banned parties and trade unions and where the national literacy rate is about 15 per cent. But Mr Koirala, branded as a survivor from the decade of the failed politicians, could hardly have become a catalyst if the country was

genuinely contented with the regime.

A return to parliamentary government would perhaps not solve Nepal's economic problems, but neither has the panchayat system. Between 1967 and 1975 (the latest period for any reliable figures) the average real growth in Nepal's gross domestic product, of 2.2 per cent a year, was absorbed by an identical registered population increase.

The gross national product per capita remained about \$51. The diet of more of the poor dropped below subsistence levels, and 56 per cent of all known deaths were of children under five.

Well informed people in Kathmandu differ as to whether King Birendra is all powerful within the system or, as the phrase goes, he has difficulties within the palace. Instigating the Koirala trial was the work of the hardliners, those who stand to lose more if the King should decide to open the system by some relaxation on civil liberties.

The Koirala trial, and the keen international interest aroused, limit the King's immediate options, but the basic choices remain his as an absolute monarch and the Nepalese Army appears both loyal and obedient.

Mrs Castle advised to drop case of jailed nurse

Bangkok, Dec 13—A former Thai Prime Minister today urged Mrs Barbara Castle, Labour MP for Blackburn, not to become involved in the case of Miss Rita Nightingale, one of her constituents, who was jailed for 20 years last week for heroin smuggling, while an appeal is pending.

Mrs Castle had said after she heard of the sentence that she believed Miss Nightingale, a 24-year-old nurse, was innocent.

Mr Kukrit Pramo said in the Siam Rath newspaper that he had sympathy for Miss Nightingale and for British officials in Bangkok, whom Mrs Castle has asked to ensure that she is being properly treated in jail.

Miss Nightingale was jailed after being found guilty of trying to smuggle heroin through Bangkok to Europe last March. Her lawyers said they would appeal for her release.

Mr Kukrit, who was Prime Minister from March, 1975, until April last year, wrote: "Mrs Castle is entitled to her opinion, but as the Thai court has handed down the sentence and the matter is still under appeal, the matter should be left alone."

He said Mrs Castle's request for action through the British Embassy to check prison conditions under which Miss Nightingale is held "sounds as if we are still in the era of extra-territorial rights, which were revoked a long time ago."

Mr Kukrit was referring to exemption from Thai legal action which was granted to foreigners in Thailand under treaties with the big powers signed in the mid-nineteenth century. All such treaties were revoked by 1925.

He had sympathy for Mrs Castle. "When there are requests for help from her voters, she just has to play the game," he said.—Reuter.

Chinese press told to stop official reprints

From David Bonavia Hongkong, Dec 3

The Chinese official press has vowed to discontinue the practice of reprinting itself with numerous reprints of politically significant articles in different publications.

The Peking party organ Kwangming Daily has condemned the reprinting of official sponsored articles in central and provincial newspapers and specialised journals and magazines, which has been common practice until now.

In one issue of the medical journal, 60 per cent of its contents were reproduced from newspapers and periodicals run by the central authorities, the newspaper said, blaming this practice on the so-called "gang of four" led by Chiang Ching, Chairman Mao's widow.

"There are hundreds of periodicals throughout the country, and the waste resulting from reproduction is staggering," it added.

Nun finds head of kidnap victim

Quito, Dec 13.—The head of an Ecuador businessman kidnapped 13 days ago was found in the grounds of a church college here today, police said.

The head was wrapped in a plastic bag inside a box found by a nun. The rest of the body has not been found.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Britain to protest over atrocities in Cambodia

By Hugh Noyes Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

The Government has at last decided to protest against the atrocities in Cambodia by raising the matter at the next meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in February.

Lord Gorman-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign Office, who announced the decision in the Lords on Monday, said that such practices should be condemned and exposed. He hoped that there would be support from Britain's friends and allies.

As more and more horrifying reports of Cambodian atrocities have been reaching the West from refugees escaping across the border into Thailand, Mr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has come under increasing pressure to raise the matter in the forum of the United Nations.

Lord Gorman-Roberts also announced that the Government would make an increased contribution of £750,000 towards the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in helping 85,000 southeast Asian refugees in Thailand.

This aid would be subject to parliamentary approval and will be in addition to the £400,000 already pledged for next year. Those in Thailand resettlement camps include 73,000 Laotians, 14,000 Cambodians and 1,000 Vietnamese.

Lord Gorman-Roberts told the Lords that Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, had agreed to admit refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia who had previous connections with Britain. A quota of 115 "small boat" refugees from Vietnam would be accepted and additional numbers from Laos and Cambodia would be considered.

Anglican schismatics in search of a bishop

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Dec 13

Early next month a convention of schismatic Anglicans will be held to establish a new church, the Anglican Church in North America. Its members claim that the Episcopal Church here has betrayed its heritage by ordaining women into the priesthood and by permitting various other innovations.

Those in Britain who dispute with the Episcopal Church over the ordination of women, and who begin the prayer "Our Father, our Mother in Heaven..."

This same institution, possibly because David danced before the Lord, think that the prayer book is a sacred text. They claim that the church is in a state of schism, and that the Anglican Church in North America is a necessary step towards the restoration of the church.

Conservatives have other objections. They say the church is in a state of schism, and that the Anglican Church in North America is a necessary step towards the restoration of the church.

Durban home of banned Indian leader fired on

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 13

A man known for an attack last night on the Durban home of Mrs Fatima Meer, the banned Indian leader and sociologist, the police said today.

The family's two cars were set ablaze and a house guest was badly wounded in the shoulder by shotgun fire.

The outrage was the latest in a series involving banned people.

Poor people's homes torn down during Gandhi era

From Our Correspondent Delhi, Dec 13

Tens of thousands of poor people's uprooted and their homes demolished during the emergency so as to beautify Delhi, according to the information disclosed by the Shakti Commission investigating the excesses committed under emergency rule.

One witness told the commission today that the demolitions had been directed by Mr Sanjay Gandhi with the approval of his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Mr B. R. Tamta, former municipal commissioner of Delhi, said that Mr Gandhi used to "bully and blackmail" city officials.

Mr Raghuramiah, former Minister of Works, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs, and Mr F. H. Mohsin, former Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, said that the late President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed had expressed concern about demolitions in the Turkman Gate and Jama Masjid areas.

Mr Raghuramiah said that he was not aware of any decision taken by his ministry to undertake demolitions on such a large scale.

Baluchi leaders demand restoration of rights

From Our Correspondent Islamabad, Dec 13

Mr Ghous Bux Bizenjo, the former governor of Baluchistan, and two other Baluchi leaders have demanded the National Awami Party, who were recently granted release on bail by a special court, have refused to leave prison until the martial law authorities agree to reverse the consequences of the military operations carried out from 1973 by Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister.

The two other leaders who declined to be released until Baluchi grievances are redressed are Mr Khair Bux Marri and Mr Gul Khan Naseer. The special court, which was set up in 1975 by Mr Bhutto to try 45 people, mainly leaders of the National Awami Party, who had been accused of alleged anti-state activities in 1973, granted bail last week to 14 of the accused, including

Khan Abdul Wali Khan, president of the party.

A statement issued by Mr Mahmud Aziz Kurri, a former member of the Senate on behalf of Mr Bizenjo said he had met the Baluchi leader in Hyderabad jail last Saturday. Mr Bizenjo reportedly said that during military operations on the order of Mr Bhutto's Government, "hundreds of men, women and children were killed, numerous villages were destroyed, thousands of people were uprooted, a large number were forced to abandon their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country or go into hiding or flee across the border, and many were put behind bars."

Although the Bhutto regime was no longer in power, Mr Bizenjo said, people in Baluchistan remained uprooted and those who had abandoned their homes were still destitute. Many were still in hiding and others were in jail.

Eight die in fire

Providence, Rhode Island, Dec 13.—Fire swept through a dormitory at Providence College early today, killing at least eight women students. Fourteen were injured, three seriously.

Train kills 11

Denizli, Turkey, Dec 13.—Eleven people were killed and six injured when the minibus in which they were travelling was hit by a goods train on a crossing near here last night.

Second stage of Falklands meeting opens

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Dec 13

The second stage of the latest round of negotiations on the Falkland Islands began here today. Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, went to the Argentine consulate for talks with Captain Oscar Allara, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Argentina.

The talks, which are expected to last three days, follow up the meeting between the two sides in Rome in July, when for the first time the question of transferring the sovereignty of the islands to Argentina was formally discussed.

Britain is anxious to get rid of the islands, but all its remaining colonial possessions, but will not do so without the agreement of the 1905 inhabitants, who want to stay British.

Thus the most important stage of the present initiative will come when Mr Rowlands goes to Rio de Janeiro on Sunday to meet Falkland Islands representatives. That is when he will seek their agreement to any formula he and Captain Allara might draw up this week.

Wary crew used Salyut's back door

Moscow, Dec 13.—The Soyuz 26 cosmonauts entered the Salyut 6 space laboratory by the back door because they suspected the main docking entrance was faulty, it was explained on Moscow radio today.

Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri Romanenko and Mr Georgy Grechko, who were said to be enjoying a day of "active rest" today, decided to use the alternative docking entry when the Soyuz capsule linked up with the previously unused Salyut on Sunday.

In the broadcast, Mr Konstantin Feoktistov, a space scientist, said: "The first docking device was found to be suspicious and the decision was taken to dock at the other end."

The two docking entrances on Salyut increased the reliability and safety of the space stations and would allow ground control to launch resupply or rescue crews in case of need.

Improvements to Salyut 6 to make it more comfortable for the orbiting cosmonauts and to accommodate new scientific equipment were described in the broadcast.

Mr Feoktistov said a new drinking water recycling system, first tested experimentally on Salyut 4, was now a regular feature on Salyut 6, along with an experimental shower-bath.

The shower, in a sealed compartment, used a flow of air to direct wastewater down over a bathing cosmonaut and out the bottom. A special filter separated the water and the air for recirculation in the space ship's systems.

By 2 pm Moscow time today (1100 GMT) the Salyut 6 had completed 1,188 orbits around Earth, 34 of them with the Soyuz 26 crew on board, according to Tass. It was orbiting Earth every 91.4 minutes at between 208.4 miles and 225.5 miles and at an orbital inclination of 51.6 degrees.

All systems were functioning normally, the news agency said.

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PARLIAMENT, December 13, 1977

Britain and France to seek areas for closer industrial cooperation: similar views on future of EEC

House of Commons
The French and British Governments are to establish a Committee for Industrial Cooperation to identify areas for closer cooperation between the two countries, Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said. He was making a statement about his talks yesterday with Mr. Jacques Chirac, the President of France, and Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the President of France, in the House of Commons.

Mr. Callaghan said: The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere and revealed a broad similarity of approach to the main issues of the Community.

Current questions affecting the European Community were fully discussed at last week's meeting of the European Council. At Champs-Élysées, the President discussed the longer-term development of the Community. We found that our views were similar.

We discussed the important and pressing question of the Community's fisheries policy on which the Commission's proposals will provide the basis for a further meeting of the fisheries council next month.

We resumed our discussions on the world economic situation and in agreement that it is essential for the OECD and the EEC to coordinate their policies, particularly in the area of unemployment, which is not rising higher. Our own fight against inflation, which is making good progress, needs the help of more expansionary policies in the European economies.

We discussed the problems arising from the surplus accumulated by the Opec countries and by Japan.

In a thorough review of our bilateral relations, we agreed to establish a Committee for Industrial Cooperation, drawn from senior officials of the two countries, which will identify new areas of industrial cooperation between the two countries. This committee will be responsible for the technology, technology peripheral to the computer industry, the paper industry, and the machine tool industry.

We welcomed the contacts already established between British Leyland and Renault in possible cooperation between the two companies which, while leaving the initiative to them, we support and encourage.

We discussed a proposal for a 2,000 megawatt cross-Channel electricity link. We noted that the generating stations in the two countries are in negotiation towards an agreement and expressed our support for this. We reviewed the need for co-operation in the supply of defence equipment, and welcomed the significant progress that is being made.

We exchanged views on possible new projects in the field of civil aviation; we agreed that quick decisions were needed on the

Two million increase forecast in workforce

The workforce might increase by more than two million between now and the early 1980s, nearly half of whom will be women, Mr. Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, stated. More jobs in manufacturing industry would have to be found by stimulating investment and domestic and international trade, Mr. Booth said.

Mr. Booth said that the increase in the workforce was not unexpected, but it was a challenge to the Government to find ways of creating more jobs.

He said that the Government was committed to creating more jobs and to ensuring that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

Mr. Booth said that the Government was committed to creating more jobs and to ensuring that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

PM predicts higher living standards

Reasonable pay settlement during the next 12 months would mean further tax remissions and this, Mr. Callaghan said, was the best way of ensuring that the standard of living was maintained.

Mr. Callaghan said that the Government was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

Mr. Callaghan said that the Government was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

A further fall in jobless total expected

The December figures would show a further fall in unemployment, Mr. Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, said, during a question time. He indicated that the Government was reviewing the operation of the temporary employment subsidy along with a number of other major measures which had been extended through to March. He would return to the House with a statement on this.

He added that the temporary employment subsidy, more than any other single measure introduced since the start of the year, had substantially reduced the level of unemployment to about a third of what it would otherwise have been.

Mr. Booth said that the Government was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

Big vote in favour of first-past-the-post system for direct elections to Europe

A backbench amendment in the name of three Labour and three Conservative MPs designated the first-past-the-post system as the basis for electing members of the European Assembly. The amendment was defeated, but the vote was a close one.

Mr. Booth said that the Government was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

Chances of being ready 'very, very remote'

Mr. Edward Heath (Bexley, Sdorp) said direct elections were important in themselves. They would make the House of Commons the eyes of the world as a democratic institution.

Mr. Heath said that the Government was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

Greater regularity of prison visits wanted

House of Lords
There seemed little doubt that the correspondence of prisoners was more restrictive than those which were received by the public, Lord Longford (Lab) said in opening a debate on communication between prisoners and the public.

Lord Longford said that the Government was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

Council of Ministers prepared to concede half the increases in regional fund sought by MPs

European Parliament
Strasbourg
The Council of Ministers and the EEC Commission urged Parliament to avoid a conflict with the Council over the use of the regional fund, Mr. Mark Eyskens, the Belgian Minister for Finance, on behalf of the Council and Mr. Christopher Tugendhat, Commission Minister for Budget and Financial Control, were speaking in a debate which marked the final stage of the budget procedure.

After modifications on the draft budget, the Council set the figure of 500 million ECU for the regional fund, which would be 750 million ECU in 1978.

Mr. Eyskens said that the Council was committed to ensuring that the standard of living was maintained and that the workforce was trained for the jobs of the future.

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Davis Cup out in first

Innocent misrepresentation: liability under new law

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David Howell says only months are left to get this message across...

How the Tories must go about creating the post-socialist society



David Howell: a question of themes.

The intellectual revolt in Britain against the collectivist has gathered great momentum. There can be no doubt who has won most of the arguments of the last three years about the broad shape of policy, and it is not the socialist.

Down at the tactical end, too, the Conservative Opposition is increasingly in the ascendant. In a parliamentary atmosphere similar, I suspect, to the late 1940s, Labour are being constantly driven on to the defensive, their party morale requiring more and more frequent performances of Mr. Michael Foot's "so I say to them" speeches to keep it intact at all.

But in between broad philosophical direction and tactical warfare lies a less easily definable area where questions of an opposition like "But what would they actually do?" or "What will be their attitude or approach to this intractable problem or that one?" or "How will they handle this group or that?" are bound to come up with growing frequency.

It is not so much a matter of producing a long string of policies in response to such pressures. Too much policy detail in opposition can be self-defeating and a godsend for a drowning government. There were certainly those who felt that the Conservative Party was overloaded with policy in the late Sixties (although this did not stop winning).

It is more a question of themes, of impressing on the public mind the decided purposes of the would-be government and the sort of way it is most likely to reach what in earlier political parlance would be called the "character" of the incoming administration.

Here at once we come to a paradox. No Conservative opposition since the war has stood out more distinctly than this

one against socialist assumptions and socialist policies. Yet it is hard to think of a time in recent years when the Conservatives have been more acutely aware of the constraints on what a new government alone can achieve, more reluctant to rush in with "solutions" to the nation's problems, more sceptical about the remedial properties of endless fresh legislation.

The recent Conservative Central Office publication *The Right Approach to the Economy* is shot through with this mood of caution. Certainly it undertakes to cut personal taxation substantially and to reduce the share of the nation's wealth taken by the state.

But an important part of the flavour of the document is also to be found in the following sentence: "We believe that the Government knows less about business than businessmen, less about investment than investors and less about pay bargaining than trade union negotiators and employers. We think we understand the limitations on what a government alone can do. This is surely the beginning of wisdom and common sense."

Such a passage would have been inconceivable in the literature of any political party in this country a decade ago and there are doubtless many outside politics who feel that this more sober tone is long overdue among all politicians after the record of recent years.

But it would be a mistake to see this as a mere negative reaction to past disappointments. For the implications of such a stance are far from negative and involve vastly determined effort.

Not to be dragged by the coat-tails into the realities of an "industrial strategy" requires immense nerve and will.

Not to be deceived that rac-

king the formidable social problems of overmanaging at British Leyland and British Steel somehow constitutes a serious policy for industrial success requires incessant argumentative energies to prevent the bureaucratic establishment from rolling precisely that way.

Not to tamper unduly with North Sea oil revenues but to let the bulk of them flow to the taxpayer requires a will to resist enormous political and pressure group forces that are fast building up.

Not to be cornered into laying down at industrial level detailed pay figures for count- less employments and professions requires a spine and clarity of purpose that appears to be entirely lacking in the present administration.

Not to be sucked into the cozy routines of the corporatist state as a substitute for more fundamental measures needs a tough scepticism, an unflinching readiness to pursue awkward questions the like of which had not been evident in high politics for a generation.

Of course people want it both ways—radical action to sweep away the past but no upheavals please, major policy changes but minimum legislation. That is entirely under-

men have raised their voice against big bureaucracy. Technicians have cast doubts on the invariable virtues of scale.

Politicians worried by the miserable unemployment figures have seen the heavy excess manpower in larger industry and have drawn their own conclusions. Planners have begun to understand that an economy is not all about manufacturing capacity. Employees have shuddered at the ruthless impersonality of the trade union machines as they drive their alleged group interest over personal circumstances and the broad public interest alike.

Workers have begun to see that through their pension schemes and life policies they already are the investors and owners against whom they are supposed to be struggling.

The renewed elevation of the ideal of mass personal ownership does not meet all these hopes and fears of course, nor does it begin to create an insistent interest the other way. Given a push the facts start to influence the attitudes.

That push is lower taxation on earnings—very much lower—the policy key which unlocks the door to a post-socialist society in which millions save a bit and own a bit and see their ownership grow instead of blindly following the class war generals in their ceaseless campaigns against profits and capital.

As to the theme of order, of course no party is entitled to offer instant solutions for the group ruthlessness which now holds in parts of our society, let alone for the ascending spiral of personal violence which casts a shadow over every street and housing estate. But the Conservatives have this message to get over.

The author is Conservative MP for Guildford.

The doctrine of justified violence, the paving argument for a violent and ugly society, hovers menacingly just over the edge of public debate. Too much is said on the socialist side and on key occasions much too little, to leave one anything but deeply worried about the basic will and desire of a Labour Government to resist its horrific implications.

When it comes to the point the main election debate is bound to turn, as it usually does, on what existing government has really done and what, if returned again, it would do. No effort will be spared on the Conservative side in helping Labour to explain exactly what it has done and exactly what kind of British society it would create in setting its heavy future programme of socialism would bring about.

No poetic imagination or party exaggeration will be needed. All is on record, all or nearly all is lovingly set out in Labour's Programme for Britain.

Yet something more than this will certainly be asked of the Conservatives at the polls. There will be a need to show not just that they can and must defeat the socialism of the day, or the morrow, not just that they are driven by aspirations of freedom, but that they are capable of presiding with competence, common sense and understanding over the gradual emergence of the post-socialist society, where people in their families count, where their freedom to go in safety is of intense concern and where what they own by saving and share in the community by owning matters supremely.

In the months that remain the Conservatives have this message to get over.

The author is Conservative MP for Guildford.

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Bernard Levin

Forget the fantasies, this is the reality of China today

Yesterday, I discussed and quoted from a remarkable series of articles, which appeared in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, by Mr. Ross Munro, that paper's correspondent in China since June 1975, who has now been told (because of this very series) that he must leave the country. What is particularly valuable and refreshing about Mr. Munro's honesty and skill is that, although he sees the same as other visitors and reporters, he is not content simply to observe: he also seeks explanations for what he sees. Thus, he points out that

Most people who travel around China report that the cities are relatively orderly, quite unlike the scenes of urban chaos found in other parts of Asia. In Chinese cities, they have seen no looting, no beggars, no one sleeping on the streets, no one sleeping out of the hotels.

But he promptly continues by saying that:

There is one overriding explanation for this: the urban population is severely limited because all but a tiny minority of China's 650-million-plus peasants must have the right to move to the cities. This restriction is the greatest limitation of freedom that China imposes on its people. . . . Today, innumerable people from the rural areas endure hardship and risk punishment by going to the cities where they often lead marginal existences, living off friends or relatives because they cannot legitimately obtain regular housing or the ration coupons necessary to buy rice and clothing. If they're caught begging, the authorities send them back to the communes.

It is worth pausing there to ask what Mr. Munro's description of that state of affairs reminds us of. Is it not uncannily similar to South Africa's laws which deprive millions of Africans of any residence rights in the cities and enforce their return to the "homelands"? But of course there is one very dramatic difference: most of those who protest at the cruelty and injustice of such a system in South Africa have nothing to say against the cruelty and injustice of the system in China. (It was difficult enough to make Mr. Peter Hain, a member of the House of Commons, say that the Soviet barbarism it would be the devil's own job to get him to picket the Chinese Embassy.)

And yet even South Africa's black majority are not so badly off as China's masses in this respect: Even a short trip away from one's village or city can be difficult to arrange, however. The would-be traveller must first go to the leader of his unit—factory workshop, a production team, in a commune or other organization he works for and ask for leave from work and permission to travel.

And when the "permissions" of that passage have been digested, try this one: Once he gets permission from his work unit, the traveller must obtain special ration coupons enabling him to buy rice or bread outside his province; these coupons are one of the most basic of the control mechanisms in China. Ordinarily, families are issued ration coupons weekly in the home province. They cannot buy even a bowl of rice in a restaurant in another province unless they present the much prized national coupon. Once the traveller gets

to his destination, he cannot stay at a hotel or lodging house unless he presents a letter of introduction from his unit. If he stays with friends or relatives, they are required to register their guest with the local authorities.

And while I am on the subject of double-vision, how many of those who have adopted the phrase "Catch-22" to describe the actions of the authorities in Western society, will use it about this translation into Chinese?

In recent years, millions of young people have been sent out of the cities and into the countryside upon graduation. . . . They are observed, discussed and judged by local party functionaries, by work leaders and, in a limited but symbolically important way, by their fellow graduates. Getting back to the city can be an exceedingly tricky business. Commune officials say, for instance, that a young person can demonstrate a "good political attitude" by expressing an enthusiastic willingness to settle down in the countryside for the rest of his life.

No wonder, then, that as Mr. Munro demonstrates, almost by accident:

The most relaxed and independent citizens of China seem to be those whose work gives them the opportunity to escape the constant controls of their units. Car drivers on the road all day alone with their horse-drawn wagons seem to be among the most free individuals in China. A cussing and joking as the mood moves them and apparently quite unconcerned about what anyone thinks of them.

But, the admirers of China will declare, at least Western favouritism and nepotism, class connexions and "pull" are absent from the pure air of China. Mr. Munro, however, has studied the situation as it actually exists, not as its admirers imagine it to be, and reports accordingly:

Family and school connexions help. In some schools, most of the students are sons and daughters of officials. Obviously there must be special privileges for these graduates. A student at Peking University, incidentally, boasted that 37 per cent of his high school class had entered institutions of higher education. Those with enough political credentials, intellectual superiority, good connexions to gain entry to college or university embark on a career path that will take them into the cadre class. A cadre, by the Chinese definition, is either an official, a bureaucrat or a member of the "intelligence" which includes teachers, propagandists and professionals.

Mr. Munro's work in China, consisting of clear-eyed observation, has given us a very much better idea of the reality of that country today than all the fantasies of the Felix Grubers and Han Suyins and Neville Martinells. And that we need his reality urgently is well shown by a recent report in the *People's Daily*, with a title that reads: "Before summing up the 25th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, we must first strengthen the discipline of the proletarian." Quite.

(To be concluded)

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Mr Sadat, still relying on America to budge Israel

Seldom can a major international peace conference have been held in circumstances of such confusion and ambiguity as the one which formally opens this morning at the Meza House hotel.

Officially, it is merely a prelude for the resumption of the Geneva Conference. But unofficially the Israelis and Americans now seem increasingly to brush aside the Geneva framework as no longer relevant, or at most an arena for the formal ratification of substantive agreements reached elsewhere. President Sadat, by saying that the Cairo Conference could continue for months, and be taken up to Foreign Minister level "or even higher", has implied much the same. From the point of view of both Israel and Egypt, the Cairo framework is preferable to the Geneva one because Mr. Sadat issued the invitations in such a way that those parties which he saw as posing procedural obstacles in the way of real negotiations—the Israelis and the Soviet Union—were bound to refuse.

In other words, Mr. Sadat has engineered a framework for bilateral negotiations between Egypt and Israel, rather than a swearing hand-on-heart, "over, that this does not mean they want a separate peace. Ideally, of course, Israel would like peace with all her neighbours. It mutually acceptable terms could be found. But in reality Israel's policy-makers believe that peace with Syria is

not possible at this stage, that Lebanon cannot move independently from Syria, and that Jordan may also not be able to enter because of the complexities of the Palestinian issue. They would, therefore, gladly settle for a separate peace with Egypt, to be going on with, and are hoping that Mr. Sadat feels the same way, and is only asking them to show flexibility on non-Egyptian issues so that he can put the blame on the other Arab parties for the fact that a comprehensive settlement is not reached at this stage.

That interpretation of Mr. Sadat's intentions is probably right—at least in so far as it affects Syria. Mr. Sadat's has now made it clear that he does not believe the present Syrian regime is seriously interested in making peace, and also that he does not think it matters much since in the end Syria has no choice but to tag along behind Egypt. But it appears that he still hopes to bring in Jordan at a later stage of the negotiations and also some Palestinians, preferably including at least a part of the PLO.

No doubt his insistence on an independent Palestinian state in his speech to the Knesset was largely tactical, since in the past he has sought to meet Israeli fears by encouraging a link between the Palestinians and Jordan. From a practical point of view such a link makes obvious sense, but Mr. Sadat has clearly grasped the great emotional importance which Palestinians attach to being recognized as a people



The head of the Israeli delegation, Elhan Ben El-Mechaieq, right, is greeted in Cairo.

in their own right, not as mere subjects of the Hashemite monarch.

King Hussein himself is well aware of this, and would be unlikely to re-assume responsibility for the West Bank unless asked to do so by some credible representatives of Palestinian opinion, and given the great light by the more important Arab states. That in turn means that at least some Palestinian leaders formerly associated with the PLO, and perhaps claiming to represent the real PLO, would have to be involved.

None of these people are likely to get involved unless they can be convinced that Israel is willing to withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. And this, no doubt,

is what the Egyptians mean when they propose that "following the inaugural session, the conference will start discussing the core of the problem, which is the Palestinian question."

The Israelis know this. Mr. Begin has said repeatedly in the last few weeks that he recognizes the existence of a "problem of the Palestinian Arabs" that he is prepared to discuss and believes a solution can be found. Although theoretically committed by his election platform not to allow any part of "Judea and Samaria" to return to "foreign" (ie non-Israeli) rule, he has allowed Mr. Dayan to discuss a territorial partition of the area. But Mr. Dayan also pointed out that a partition

is not what the Arabs want: they want the return of all the land lost in 1967, and up to now no Israeli government has been prepared to consider this.

For this reason, even Israel does now talk of a "functional" rather than territorial compromise, the idea being apparently that the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should enjoy extensive autonomy under some kind of Israeli-Jordanian condominium. It seems unlikely that this will be enough to tempt either the Palestinians themselves or King Hussein, in which case it will be of little use to Mr. Sadat.

Mr. Sadat wants peace: that is clear. Indeed he seems to want something like an alliance

with Israel against those whom he regards as Soviet-inspired trouble-makers in the Arab world. But this projection is still apparently based on the assumption that once Israel is no longer threatened by Egypt as a hostile military power, she should be prepared to accept the pre-1967 frontiers as a basis for negotiation. So far Israel shows no disposition to do this. The signs are that Mr. Sadat is still relying on American pressure to budge Israel, and that one of the main objectives of all his spectacular diplomacy in the last few weeks has been to assure himself or more wholehearted American support.

Edward Mortimer

An ordinary house in an ordinary street



yet it could rescue 7 elderly people from loneliness

Abbeyfield buys and converts ordinary houses into about 7 bed-sitting-rooms each. Here, lonely elderly people enjoy both the privacy of their own rooms with their own furniture around them—and the company of others at two meals a day, served in the dining room by the housekeeper. Abbeyfield helps people of all backgrounds. Abbeyfield is, perhaps, one of the more imaginative solutions to the problem of loneliness in old age. Each Abbeyfield house is established and looked after by its

own group of local voluntary workers. Thus charges are kept to a minimum. Each group is formed as an independent charity. There are more than 600 Abbeyfield houses all over the kingdom. But many more are wanted.

Will you help? Abbeyfield needs money, yes—but equally it needs people to help their local Abbeyfield Society where one exists, or to start one where it doesn't.

As a first step, will you write to us for a copy of our explanatory booklet?

ABBEEFIELD SOCIETY

President: Lord Pritchard

25A High Street, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, Potters Bar 43371.

Variety of considerable donations

Star of the latest bout of cheque-giving by the Variety Club of Great Britain at the Savoy yesterday was not Viscount Amory of the Second Sea Lord or comedian Frank Carson or chief baker, Trevor Chinn or even guest of honour Princess Margaret—but the Jewish Metropolitan Police Commissioner, David McNee.

The stocky Scotsman was anything but dour in a sparkling little speech which included some good jokes such as the one about the police superintendent who caught one of his constables standing in Trafalgar Square with his arms outstretched, looking up at the pigeons and saying: "Go on, go on, everybody else does."

In the best traditions of public speaking, he ended up on a strong straight note: "It has not been an easy year for the Metropolitan Police. The maintenance of public order amid demonstrations, and industrial disputes has been particularly demanding on resources, and in particular of our most precious commodity, manpower."

Far too many of our officers have been injured. The strain on police wives and families has reached critical levels."

Mr. McNee was speaking after being presented with a cheque of £5,000 by the Variety Club

for the children's section of the police dependants' trust.

The Variety Club also presented a cheque for £10,000 to Dawn House School, a special school run under the auspices of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, of which Princess Margaret is president. They received from the Second Sea Lord a cheque for £4,000 which had been raised by the Royal Navy.

Coals to Newcastle?

Forty per cent of the requests from American libraries for documents from the British Library's lending division are for United States publications, say officials of the British Library. It turns out that requests are dealt with so speedily that it is often quicker for American institutions to send to the giant library at Boston Spa in West Yorkshire, than it is for them to try to obtain the publications through the national libraries in the United States.

A mix-up by a Worcester mail order firm has led to hundreds of people receiving a cassette of a rather naughty Peter Cook and Dudley Moore recording—four letter words and all—instead of *Black Beauty*.

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS



Environmental considerations

The row which I started in these pages (December 8) on the performance of senior personnel at the Ministry of Defence in changing the story at the eight-story main buildings (where out-of-action lifts remained unrepaired through industrial action) has left them unmoved at the Department of the Environment. And not surprisingly, since the band of

ministers (headed by Peter Shore) who work at the 12-storey (ugly) Marsham Street headquarters were, it seems, planning to move downstairs to the ground floor of the danger to a lift.

For some time now, a notice has been circulating advising that because of the safety risk they might have to leave the fine views afforded by their offices in the last few weeks has been floors) and move down to less breathless climes.

The official memorandum reads: "Contingency plans are being made for some ministers and a few senior officers who need to work closely with them to move into temporary offices in the lower floors. The main criterion for deciding such moves (apart from health considerations) will be the need for relatively frequent and speedy movement in and out of the building, bearing in mind the need for ministers to be within division bell distance of the House."

Bernard Levin went to see *Wagner's The Country Wife* at the National Theatre the other day and noted a line that he says might have come straight out of the Steve Biko inquest: A character is insisting that the truth of what he is saying will be attested to by the doctor in the room, whereupon one of his more sceptical listeners replies: "They'll swear a man that died to death of his wounds died of an anaphylax."

The upper reaches

Which French bass singer was found in bed with the composer during a performance at the Paris Opera? Michael Scott, who used to present star-studded operatic concerts in London, tells all in a candid and detailed book about opera singers called *The Record of Singing*.

The book is included by EMI in a limited edition of boxed sets of 12 records illustrating the work of the singers (scandalous and virtuous) before the First World War. Already, though the albums have scarcely reached the shops, EMI are assured a sell-out even at the approximately monumental price of £25.

Some 250 of the singers mentioned in Scott's book are included on the records, the most curious perhaps being Professor Alessandro Mercadante, the only castrato ever recorded. Strangely the oldest recording of all, made by an American called Ellen Beach-Yaw in 1893 while she was in London, is bearing Sullivan's *Role of Persia*, established some sort of record among records.

In a piece of mock Mozart, Miss Yaw, whose voice is likened to "wind howling in the chimney," achieved, D. natural in alto, a high note recorded seldom, if ever, since. Despite that, the pressings languished unmissed in EMI's archives, until now.

Making an overture

Any suggestions (and they must be printable) for a signature tune for the European Parliament? I am told that the search is now on for a theme, somewhat "hummable", to play before the opening of the Parliament. The movement, an allegro molto from Haydn's 94th Symphony has apparently been suggested. Please do not pause to inquire what Westminster's tune is or why (instead) a Parliament should need music to put to the plethora of words.

Possibly just hot air

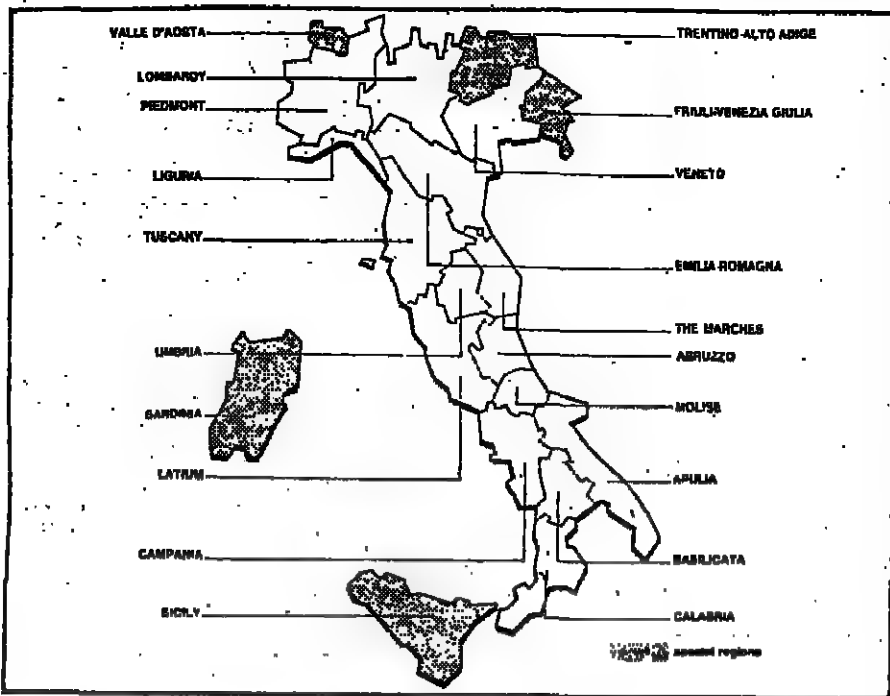
A reader rang us (aimed rather than intended) to say that a group called, improbably, the Anal Zephyr Trio had been booked for the National Theatre early evening *serenade* on December 19. Could they exist? The National Theatre said they were not sure. When they rang us back they said that the pianist would be "an unknown" and that the group would not perform.

But, following extensive inquiries, I am assured that the Anal Zephyr Trio does exist (apart from the pianist) and that they will be well the group will make an appearance at the National in the new year.

هلا ان الاصل

REGIONS OF ITALY

a Special Report introducing
a series on the nation's
diverse areas



KEY
A Population (Dec 31, 1975)
B Per cent of votes cast at latest regional elections (June, 1975, unless otherwise specified): DC=Christian Democrat, PCI=Communist, PSI=Socialist, UV=Unione Valdostana, MSI=Movimento Sociale Italiano (right wing)
C Name and party of regional president
D Average income per head (Italy=100)
E Unemployed, per cent
F Ratio of type of employment, per cent: agricultural / industrial / other
G Regional capital

ITALY
A 58,009,400
B DC 35.3, PCI 33.4, PSI 12, others 19.3
D 100
E 3.31
F 18.4/43.7/39.9

VALLE D'AOSTA

A 113,720
B DC 21.4, PCI 18.5, PSI 6.5, UV 33.9, others 18.7 (June, 1973)
C Mario Andriano (UV)
D 138.3
E 129.1
F 14/39.5/46.5
G Aosta
Italy's smallest region used to suffer from isolation until the two great tunnels were opened under Monte Bianco and the St Bernard and a motorway was completed through the valley.

PIEDMONT
A 4,541,789
B DC 32.1, PCI 33.9, PSI 12.9, others 21.1
C Aldo Viglione (PSI)
D 129.1
E 2.06
F 11.4/55/33.8
G Turin
Despite its strong French tradition, Piedmont was the cradle of Italian unity. With the Fiat works in Turin, it is the centre of Italy's engineering industry; it also produces the country's finest red wines.

LOMBARDY

A 8,837,350
B DC 37.5, PCI 30.4, PSI 14.1, others 18
C Cesare Gollari (DC)
D 138.5
E 1.54

LIGURIA

A 1,867,439
B DC 30.4, PCI 38.4, PSI 13.5, others 17.7
C Angelo Carosino (PCI)
D 137.5
E 3.16
F 8.1/38.3/53.6
G Genoa
A steeply mountainous coast has given the region an outward-looking character. It is no coincidence that Italy's greatest port, Genoa, and Italy's greatest explorer—Columbus—both belong to Liguria.

TUSCANY

A 3,566,686
B DC 28.5, PCI 46.5, PSI 10.7, others 14.3
C Lello Lagorio (PSI)
D 107.4
E 2.56
F 18.5/42.5/39
G Florence
Tuscans allow no doubts that their region produces the best spoken Italian, the world's finest treasure-house of art and the grandest combination of man with God in the balance of their landscape.

UMBRIA

A 795,246
B DC 27.6, PCI 48.2, PSI 13.9, others 12.3
C Germano Marri (PCI)
D 84.7
E 4.18
F 18.5/42.5/39
G Perugia
Umbria's apparent serenity, epitomized by the quiet of Assisi and Spoleto, is broken by dissatisfaction with its lack of development and a feeling that it is caught between the busy north and the subsidized south.

SARDINIA

A 1,552,854
B DC 38.3, PCI 28.6, PSI 11.7, others 23.2 (June, 1974)
C Pietro Soddru (DC)
D 74.8
E 5.42
F 20.1/33.8/46.2
G Cagliari
Few parts of Europe have remained so firmly outside the history of the continent (a word which Sardinians reserve for the Italian mainland). This, as much as its lovely coastline, is why the island retains a unique fascination.

LATINUM

A 4,915,326
B DC 31.5, PCI 33.5, PSI 9.8, others 25.2
C Giulio Santarelli (PSI)
D 112.5

CAMPANIA

A 4,488,399
B DC 33.3, PCI 10.5, PSI 10.8, MSI 16.3, others 29.1 (June, 1973)
C Angelo Bonfiglio (DC)
D 66.3
E 4.39
F 25.8/33.4/41
G Naples
The island was granted semi-autonomy in May, 1948, before the Italian constitution itself came into force. The move was effective, and although Sicilian regionalism was for long chaotic, it has recently acquired a more even temper.

TRIDENTINO-ALTO ADIGE

A 866,484
B DC 35.6, PCI 7.5, PSI 8.4, PPST/PPPT, 31.7, others 16.8 (Nov., 1973)
C Spartaco Marziani (DC)
D 110.3
E 1.82
F 18.2/36/47.8
G Trento
Agreement after the last war gave the German-speaking South Tyrol substantial autonomy within a region which also includes the province of Trento. Occasionally violent objections by extremists among the German speakers seem to be quiescent.

VENETO

A 4,277,530
B DC 48, PCI 22.6, PSI 12.8, others 16.4
C Angelo Tomelleri (DC)
D 96.5
E 0.84
F 13/47.8/39.2
G Venice
Venice continues to be one of the few dreams which maintain the promise of their fame. Smaller cities, such as Vicenza and Verona and the Po delta itself, retain a style and freshness of their own.

FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

A 1,244,595
B DC 38.7, PCI 20.9, PSI 12.3, others 24.1 (June 1973)
C Antonio Comelli (DC)
D 118.1
E 2.07
F 20.1/33.8/48.2
G Trieste

Italy's most sensitive frontier had to await solution of the Trieste dispute before it became a special region. The largely agricultural area of Friuli was added to compensate for the loss of much of the city's hinterland.

EMILIA ROMAGNA

A 3,935,722
B DC 25.3, PCI 48.3, PSI 10.2, others 16.2
C Sergio Cavinna (PCI)
D 114.9
E 2.84
F 16.8/43.0/40.1
G Bologna
The leading communist stronghold is renowned for serious devotion to good eating and drinking and physical pleasures. Bologna has a tradition of fiery political oratory to which both Pietro Nenni and Mussohni belong.

THE MARCHES

A 1,390,400
B DC 36.5, PCI 36.9, PSI 9.8, others 16.8
C Adriano Ciaffi (DC)
D 86.4
E 2.17
F 21.2/42.9/35.9
G Ancona
A border region, neither poor nor subject to uncontrolled industrial expansion. Annsen trades strongly and its countryside has a quiet beauty, though too many of its inhabitants have left for the coastal towns.

ABRUZZO

A 1,211,460
B DC 42.5, PCI 30.3, PSI 10.2, others 17
C Romeo Ricciuti (DC)
D 77
E 3.87
F 25.7/32.5/38.8
G L'Aquila
Before the motorways, when the route from Rome to L'Aquila was open only in the summer, this central region used to be more closely connected with the south. It is mountainous, sparsely populated and slightly mysterious.

MOLISE

A 329,547
B DC 49.9, PCI 17.9, PSI 10.1, others 22.1
C Florindo D'Amico (DC)
D 59.6
E 4.31
F 41.4/27.9/30.6
G Campobasso
Boasting neither the population nor the economic weight to rank as a separate region, Molise was given this status mainly because of the communication difficulties which would have arisen if it had been attached to Abruzzo or Umbria.

APULIA

A 3,771,949
B DC 39.2, PCI 28.5, PSI 11.9, others 20.4
C Nicola Rotolo (DC)
D 84.7
E 4.78
F 34.6/30.7/34.7
G Bari
Low-lying areas are fertile. Olives and vines seem to spread to infinity. But the hill country is poor, and industrial projects—steel at Taranto, petrochemicals at Brindisi—are still out of balance in the regional structure.

BASILICATA

A 814,735
B DC 41.9, PCI 27.1, PSI 13.2, others 17.8
C Vincenzo Verrastro (DC)
D 58.9
E 4.76
F 38.5/32.8/5
G Potenza
Reafforestation and the revival of a pastoral economy are vital if the region's potential is to be realized, and methane deposits in the Basento valley deserve development. So do plans to attract more visitors.

Correction of historic error

by Peter Nichols

Italy is prodigal in investing ways of governing themselves. To keep strictly to modern times, they highly centralized form of government which was democratic but based on an elite, little more than a century ago and are now well into the fourth system of government which they have tried in so brief a period.

Immediately after unification, the Italians applied a country's needs and heritage was emphasized still more. The end of Fascism brought a mass democracy led by the Catholic party opposed, at least in the early years, to a Communist party which was also based on the principle of the masses and not of an elite. At the general election last year, which saw a consolidation of Christian Democratic strength and a big advance by the Communists, the world could see that some-

thing new had happened to Italian political life which developed some surprising and very unusual features. Communists and Catholics cooperated in as painless a way as possible for both: the majority Christian Democratic Administration could rely on the abandonment in Parliament of the Communists as well as the small lay parties excepting only the neo-Fascists. This indirect support grew into a six-party governmental programme which was essentially, in terms of political weight, a formal understanding between Christian Democrats and Communists.

There is no clear distinction between government and opposition. Only the Christian Democrats are in government but they have no majority of their own. The result is a type of democracy quite unlike the Anglo-Saxon model. It is choral and not a duet. Historical parallels, both Christian and classical, can be found for this uncommon way of governing, but it was certainly eased into existence, and allowed to work with more elasticity, because of the fact that Italy has been for seven years a state based on a combination of central and regional authority within a unitary framework.

The postwar constitution introduced the principle of a new degree of regionalism but it was not until 1970 that the regions really began their semi-autonomous life throughout the whole country. Only in 1975, at the regional elections, was the political balance clear in all 20 regions, and for that matter, the balance of political weight within the regions estimated on a national scale. The advance of the left, meant in effect that about a half the total population was under regional and local government administrations in which the left played its part.

The fact that at regional level, or below, the national considerations counselling extreme caution in collaboration between the left and other parties were not relevant meant that arrangements could be made never before tried in the national Parliament. They are being tried now and are less disturbing to public opinion because of the whole series of regional experiments which preceded them.

In this sense, the extremely brief existence of the regions can be said to have contributed heavily towards the solution of the dilemma left by last year's general election. Deadlock looked inevitable but the necessary flexibility was found and a new phase began in the way Italy is governed.

The principal object of regionalism is not, however, to prepare the path for new versions of democracy at the national level. The real object of the regions is to correct the historic error of imposing centralization on a country with such deep local differences and to project an idea for the future of administration kept in terms of size within human limits.

The 20 Italian regions vary greatly in size: Lombardy continued on page 1V

Friuli Venezia Giulia

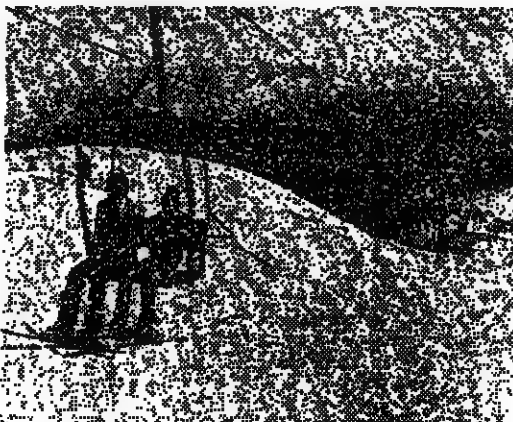
For an action holiday, a whole mountain area to be discovered



The Tarvisio area: with the special fascination of its lakes and forests, its rolling acres of fields and its tall mountains, its glaciers and its everlasting snows, the area is endowed with a wealth of resources: not just the environment, but also its history, living testimony to the way in which peoples of different languages and traditions have lived together in harmony.

Even in winter, fast roads provide access to the better known towns and to strange and interesting places, to snow fields and to ski runs and trails, served by a comprehensive system of ski lifts and cable cars.

Carnia: the home of a hard-working and hospitable people, its landscape infinitely variable in every season, its facilities for visitors continually improving. Already popular resorts are taking on a new look as the vast ski areas of Zoncolan and Varmost are being opened out. Arta Terme is still one of the leading international thermal spas. On the border with Cadore and Austria, the full range of the Eastern Dolomites and the Carnia Alps is criss-crossed by safe paths and routes.



The area of Pordenone: most of this area has yet to be fully discovered. Here the mountains are often harsh, but small villages nestle against their flanks and there are valleys of outstanding beauty at their foot, in which nature is still unspoiled and where each changing season paints the landscape with different colours. For lovers of winter sports, Piancavallo on the edge of the plain provides all the attractions of a modern resort, with facilities for every form of recreation or sport.

Published by the Assessorato del Turismo della REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Lombardy snow & cathedrals.



Come to Lombardy where snow can wait for you all year long. You will find over 800 miles of snow-tracks and first class ski-lifts. You can go to Valtellina, to Aprica, Bormio, Madesimo, S. Caterina Valfurva, to Chiesa Valsalnice. Or else you can ski above Bergamo, Brescia, Como, Lecco or on the Apennines of Pavia. Here you will also find many thermal springs, oases of peace where nature still plays a regenerating role. Arriving or leaving you must stop at our lakes and visit our towns and villages.

You will see cathedrals, squares, castles and frescoes everywhere. And you will realize how the most famous artists, summoned here by the great families of Lombardy like the Storza, the Visconti and the Gonzaga have handed this region over to history.

Lombardy
written about by man
designed
by nature.

RAI rules the national waves and fights back locally

by David Willey

The proliferation of local radio and television in Italy has taken RAI, the state broadcasting monopoly, by surprise. While regional broadcasting on television is only in the planning stage and regional radio broadcasts consist mainly of a couple of daily local news bulletins, local commercial stations have been springing up all over the country.

Some 600 local independent radio stations and about 70 local television stations are now feeding a daily diet

of pop music and old films to audiences which must number many millions although no exact audience research figures exist.

This development was the result of a decision of the Italian Constitutional Court in July, 1976, that while the state network had a monopoly on national broadcasting frequencies it did not enjoy that privilege for local transmissions.

New legislation is now being prepared which will put some order among the disturbed air waves, and RAI, in the throes of a big reorganization, is planning to expand regional broadcasting by investing some

£60m over the next 12 months in new television and radio studios, equipment and radio links and transmitters.

The major slice of over £10m will go for preliminary work on a third television channel, due to start transmissions on January 1, 1979. The plan is that each of Italy's 20 administrative regions will have its own transmitter and originate part of its own programming. There will be two channels every day on the network of which half an hour will be devoted to regional news.

The first 10 minutes will be regional items considered

of national interest, and the remainder will consist of purely local items, for local transmission.

The director of the new regional television channel is Professor Giuseppe Rosini, a former head of school broadcasting and adult education in RAI, who took the place of Signor Fabio Fabiani, nominated director earlier in the year and then quickly promoted to the post of assistant director-general of the state broadcasting network. It appears doubtful whether the new channel will be operational on schedule because of the big engineering

problems in linking the 21 different broadcasting centres by microwave and coaxial cables.

The plan is for each of the 20 regions to have its own production and broadcasting centre in the regional capital while the German-speaking region of Alto Adige will have two studios, one in Bolzano and one in Trento, making 21.

Whether the spreading of such a large network will result in really representative regional programming remains to be seen. For years RAI has been suffering from over-centralization and the new statute defin-

ing the duties of the state broadcasting network specifically states that the new RAI must be decentralized in its operations.

Although television in Italy has only just gone into colour, the new regional channel will transmit in colour from the start. Special mobile light-weight electronic equipment will be provided for regional news transmissions.

Regional radio transmissions by RAI total some 17,500 hours a year at present. They are of two sorts. In most regions there are 50 minutes of local news broadcast in two segments before and after lunch. This is supplemented by a few broad-

casts of local folklore and music.

RAI's main local broadcasting effort is concentrated on linguistic minorities in the border areas. There are French transmissions for inhabitants of the Alps, and complete daily radio programmes in German for the German-speaking population of Alto Adige and in Slovene for the people around Trieste.

Other parts of Italy which get more regional radio than the rest are the islands of Sicily and Sardinia. Local choirs, broadcasts in dialect, advice on local health problems and up to four local

newscasts are the daily offering advertised in *Radiocorriere*, the Italian equivalent of *Radio Times*.

The only regional television transmission carried out by RAI at present is a daily programme of news lasting an hour and three-quarters, children's features and magazine-type programmes put out in German by the Bolzano transmitter.

One unknown factor in the future of local broadcasting in Italy by RAI is the extent to which the political manipulation of the organization which takes place in Rome will be repeated at a local level to the benefit of left-wing regional governments. The monopoly which has

been exercised for many years inside RAI by the ruling Christian Democrat Party has ended and the Italian Communists are busy claiming their fair share of top appointments within the organization.

The Communists see the forthcoming development of local radio and television broadcasting by RAI as an excellent opportunity to gain a secure foothold in broadcasting. As many of Italy's regions are now run by communist-led administrations, communist policy appears to be to concentrate propaganda efforts at the local level.

The author is Rome correspondent of the BBC

Tourism struggles in straitjacket

by Mary Venturini

Italy is just recovering from one of its best tourist seasons. Even in the unfashionable first half of the year the number of visitors was up 20 per cent and although there are no official figures yet for July and August they are known to have been record months.

Behind the brilliant facade, however, the Italian tourist industry has been struggling with new organizational difficulties which have prevented the country from making the most of its potential.

The recent regional reforms have shifted the administrative responsibility for tourism from the Ministry for Tourism and Entertainment to the regional authorities. Inside Italy, therefore, the regions reign almost supreme. Abroad however, the point where the

most lucrative tourism begins, the ministry remains in control. It still retains the responsibility for attracting the overseas customers through its operational arm, ENIT.

And it is here, in the division of responsibilities between the regional and the central authorities, that the potential difficulties arise. If the ministry is to succeed in its functions it must attract tourists to Italy. The regions meanwhile think of success in terms of their own immediate boundaries.

In their first flush of enthusiasm the regions have been eager to use their new-found powers to the full. As far as tourism is concerned this has meant throwing off what remains of the centralized system, whether the old unified method of hotel classification or the long-established administrative structure which ran from the

small local office through the relevant provincial and regional bodies up to the headquarters in Rome.

The old bureaucratic structure will probably gain from a good shake-out. A diversification of hotel classifications from region to region would, however, only cause confusion, particularly when the EEC is trying to agree on one system for all its members.

Regional tourism at its worst means regional jealousy, a waste of resources and an uncoordinated chase after potential travellers. Lake Garda in northern Italy, for example, falls between three different regions. Lombardy, Trentino and the Veneto. Much could be made of lake transport but development has been held back because of regional jealousies over ferry operations. Inexperience has also led to such mistakes as the visit

of a Tuscan tourist delegation to Somalia or the equally unfortunate incident when two separate Friuli delegations—one on behalf of the earthquake victims and the other for tourism—launched their American campaigns not only in the same city but on the same day.

It is this sort of upset that the ministry is hoping to overcome. Exactly how it will be done is still subject to political debate. It is, however, hoped that it will be possible to draw up regulations. If not a law, which will oblige the regions to co-ordinate many of their efforts with the more experienced ministry and with ENIT.

It is a particularly delicate moment for both the central government bodies. But, while they are perhaps over-conscious of not stepping on any regional toes, they would also appear to be

pleased with their new opportunities. Grateful to be rid of previous day-to-day administration such as licensing hotels, Signor Dario Antonozzi, the minister, is now able to concentrate on the broader picture.

One concern is to prevent the rich regions like Lombardy, Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, growing even richer, thanks to their solidly based tourist trade, while the poorer areas such as Calabria, Molise, Sicily, and Campania are condemned to seemingly unending poverty as a result of their lack of finance. This has led to a successful campaign by ENIT to attract foreign tourists to the Mezzogiorno.

Another aim is to extend the season over the full year. Italy has more hotel beds than any other European country but these are used only 35 per cent of the

year, or only 29 per cent in the south.

Signor Antonozzi is hoping to get EEC backing for a plan to stagger industrial holidays. He is also working for a joint community approach to tourism in order to attract new visitors and to persuade the one-country tourist to go for a full European tour.

An idea put forward by ENIT under its new director-general is the project-based holiday—the gastronomic tour, the archaeological holiday, the mountains, the health spas, the Renaissance cities.

It is hoped that these will attract a new kind of tourist and will have the added advantage of ensuring the different regions a share of the same pie. Clearly, however, this will require a high degree of co-operation, something which it is perhaps still too early to expect.

Historic error

continued from page 1

has a population approaching nine million while Molise has about 300,000. Wealth is unevenly distributed. If the national average income of each inhabitant is 100, the figure for Calabria is less than 52 while in Liguria it is 137. But the aim nevertheless is to rediscover Italy's traditional heritage of sea governance, a heritage which is not a part of the regional tradition.

In the case of five regions—all islands or border territories—with special statutes of their own which are wider than those of the other 15, the institution was intended to counteract separatist feeling. Four of these special regions, Sicily, Sardinia, Valle d'Aosta and Trentino-Alto Adige, were established between 1946 and 1949 and one, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in 1963. They were areas regarded as requiring more urgently their regional treatment.

No one would pretend that regionalism in Italy has been an unvarnished story of success. Scandals and corruption had their part. Violence marked the baptism of both the Calabria and the Abruzzi regions. The hope of creating a new class of civil servants and politicians free of the traditional faults of both has not been fulfilled.

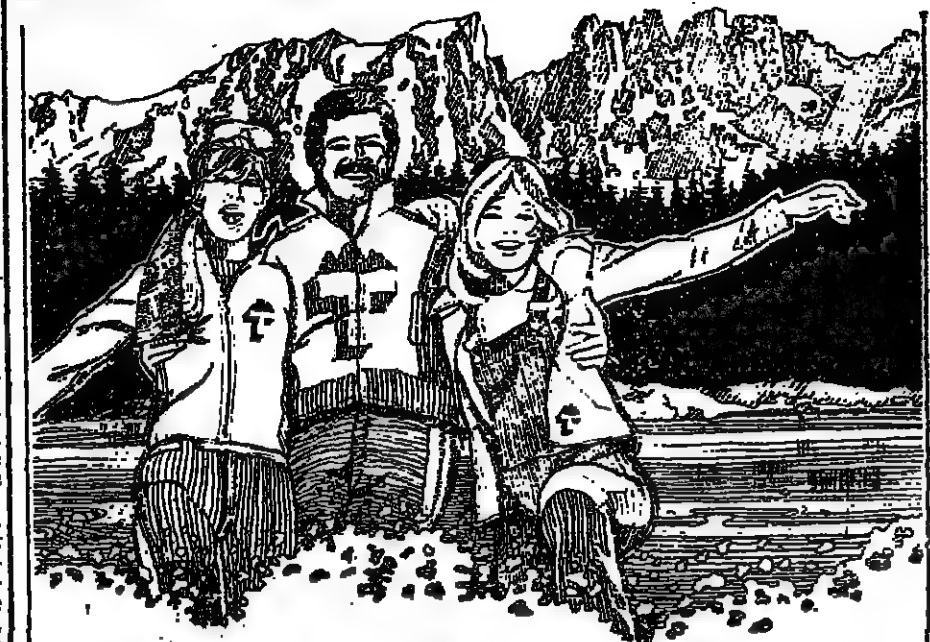
The full period of regionalism came too late. By the time the 15 ordinary regions were set on their various ways, the period of economic expansion was over and the imperious which increasing prosperity might have given was lacking. Inflation is cutting heavily into the means placed at the disposal of regional administrations.

Not only was there a long period spent in creating the full regional pattern—22 years—but reluctance was frequently shown at the centre to give a generous reading of the constitutional powers granted to the regions. And, more surprisingly perhaps, the regions themselves have behaved as if they themselves did not really believe that the days of the centralized state were supposed to be over.

The law finally defining regional powers which came into force last July found a number of regions unprepared to take on the new responsibilities facing them, especially in health and welfare. And it immediately ran into the criticisms of the ecclesiastical hierarchy which saw it as an unwarranted interference in the traditional role of Catholic churches and other bodies connected with the Church which in the past filled many gaps left by the ineffectual state.

Nevertheless, the adventure has begun and in a Europe increasingly feeling the claims of local feeling to greater means of expression whether it be Provence, or Brittany, Scotland or the Walloons or the Basques, it deserves to be watched with the closest attention.

The next report in this occasional series, on Emilia-Romagna, will be published on January 20



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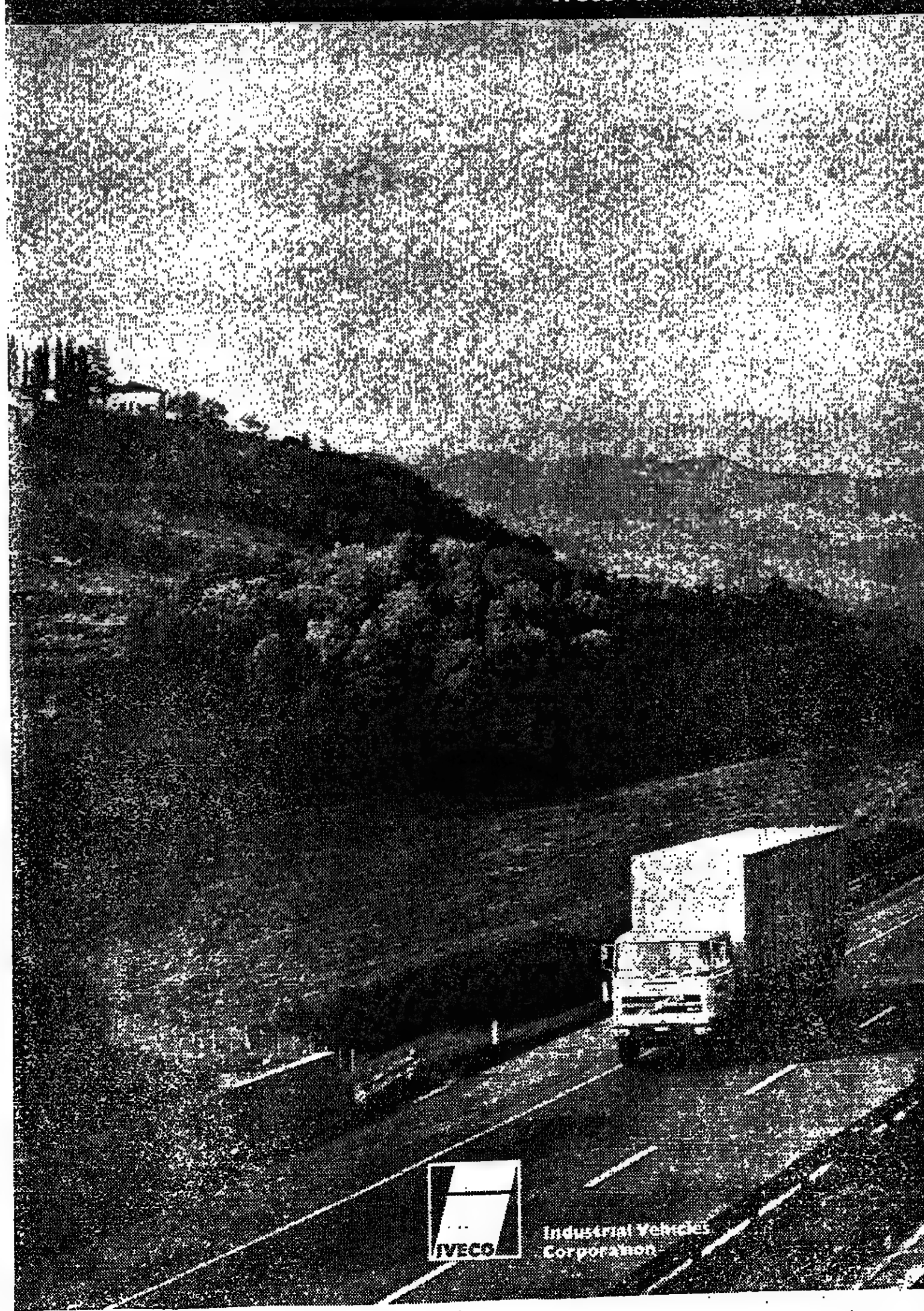
Regione Liguria
Turismo

Yellow is for folklore ★ Green is for the and handicrafts ★ countryside
Red is for art, history ★ White is for the mountains and culture and winter sports
Orange is for wine and ★ Blue is for the sea, offshore activities, skin diving and the beaches

Information from: Regione Liguria, Assessorato Turismo, Genova (ITALY)

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Industrial Vehicles
Corporation

Radical change ahead in the cigarettes market, p19

Industrial output slowdown points to further rise in jobless total this winter

By Melvyn Westlake

Industrial activity in Britain shows no sign yet of picking up, in spite of the stimulus given to the economy by the Chancellor in the summer and of the revival of financial confidence. The application of this confidence to the level of output from factories and workshops, confirmed by government figures published yesterday, is that employment will probably rise further this winter. Yesterday's figures suggest that industrial production fell by about 1.1 per cent in October. Government statistics are reluctant to place too much reliance on a single month's figures, particularly when they are subject to as much revision as these output indices have been in the past. Even so, it is clear that the industrial sector, which accounts for nearly half of the total output of the economy, remains very depressed. Since the spring, when activity in this sector showed a discernible reduction, the level of production seems to have been stuck in a rut. The picture is the same for manufacturing industry alone—excluding mining, construction and utilities. Moreover, there is some reason to think that the figures may overstate the level of industrial output in recent months—because of officially admitted weaknesses in the way that the statistics are collected and compiled. It remains far from clear why industrial activity remains so depressed when the demand for goods has been rising domestically and the volume of exports has also been increasing.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in October, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100):

	All industrial	Manufacturing
1976		
Oct	102.8	104.9
Nov	103.4	105.1
Dec	103.5	104.6
1977		
Jan	103.7	105.6
Feb	103.5	105.7
March	103.6	105.9
April	102.5	103.7
May	103.7	105.3
June	102.2	100.3
July	102.8	104.3
Aug	102.7	103.5
Sept	102.7	103.7
Oct	101.4	102.4

Percentage change latest three months on previous at annual rate -0.1

shown some revival helped by last July's tax rebates, and exports rose 2.1 per cent by volume in the third quarter of the year. The explanation seems to be that manufacturers have chosen to meet this demand by running down their stocks rather than increasing output. This follows an apparently involuntary rise in stocks in earlier months. The hope of ministers must be that this process is nearly complete and industrial output will start to climb under the impetus of the fresh measures taken by the Chancellor on October 26. Most economic forecasters expect consumer spending to rise relatively sharply next year.

The Treasury is expecting a 3 per cent rise in personal consumption between the second halves of 1977 and 1978. But this prediction assumes a growth in earnings of around 10 per cent. An average rise in earnings closer to 15 per cent, at a time when inflation is falling quite rapidly, would lead to a rather greater short-term increase in real purchasing power. This likelihood has led independent economic forecasters to predict an even faster growth in personal consumption than the Treasury has done. But the outcome will also depend on how much people choose to save of their higher income. Even on the Treasury's assumptions manufacturing production is seen as rising by some 3.1 per cent between the second halves of 1977 and 1978.

However, with many groups of workers delaying wage settlements until the general level for phase three becomes clearer, any recovery in output could come too late to prevent unemployment rising in coming months. There is, in any case, usually a lag of several months before changes in the level of economic activity have an influence on employment. Strangely, in spite of the generally depressed level of the economy, the level of unemployment has shown an inexplicable decline in October and November, after allowing for seasonal influences. It is possible that employers are holding on to workers in anticipation of an increase in demand next year. But if the traditional relationship between employment and output were maintained, some further rise in jobless would seem certain.

Crane Fruehauf directors ousted

There has been a major shake-up at Crane Fruehauf, the Norfolk trailer manufacturer, after the company's takeover by Fruehauf Corporation of the United States. Mr Angus Murray, chairman of the company, along with Mr H. Allwood, the deputy chairman, Mr Derek Marsh, managing director, Mr J. K. Thompson, project director, have all been dismissed from their executive positions. Four nominees of Fruehauf Corporation were appointed to the board, giving it an American majority. All the changes, Mr L. H. Allwood resigned from the board. Fruehauf gained control of Crane after a bitterly fought battle against the Crane board, which involving changes at rival Stewarts Fruehauf eventually topped 100p a share, compared with its original bid of 77p a share in October last year. A row broke out between Crane's directors and the takeover panel over an announcement that the board would not stand by its profits forecast of £3m for the current year if Fruehauf's bid was successful.

In brief



Mr Angus Murray: removed as chairman.

Glenlivet Distillers dealings suspended

Dealings in the shares of Glenlivet Distillers were suspended yesterday at 4.40p pending boardroom consideration today of an increased offer from Seagram, the Canadian group. The original offer of £34m, or 440p per share, was rejected last month but Glenlivet later appeared to retreat slightly by saying it was prepared to continue negotiations provided Seagram gave written assurances regarding staff employment and the future status of the company. It is understood that a partial bid, enabling Glenlivet to maintain its quoted, had been discussed by the two sides. Seagram holds 27 per cent of Glenlivet while Suntory, the leading Japanese distillery group, controls a further 11 per cent.

Uranium rise agreed

Peko Wollseid and E2 Industries, partners in Ranger Uranium, Australia, have won a price increase for 255 tonnes of uranium from stockpile to two Japanese power companies next year. Meanwhile Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development of Japan said it had signed agreements to explore uranium resources in Western Australia jointly with Australian Consolidated Minerals and Magnox Metals.

More N Sea pacts

Eight companies with interests in block 16/17a of the North Sea, which includes the Brae field, have signed definitive agreements giving the Government majority participation in any commercial developments. They are the first agreements with companies in a block where a decision to develop a field has yet to be taken.

Cadbury settlement costs LRC £460,000

LRC International, the rubber gloves, group, has settled a four year dispute with Cadbury Schweppes over the sale of Courtenay Wines (International) at a cost of more than £460,000. Cadbury Schweppes had been seeking in excess of £1.1m. The dispute stemmed from the takeover given by LRC when it sold Courtenay to Cadbury. Problems arose when the company's results fell short of expectation and Cadbury began proceedings against LRC. LRC announced yesterday that the matter had been settled with the payment to Cadbury of £300,000 plus interest over a four year period, while Cadbury had also retained £160,000 which was otherwise due to LRC. An extraordinary debit of £375,000 will be included in

BR Pension Funds offer unconditional

British Rail Pension Funds have declared their offer for Edinburgh and Dundee Investment Trust unconditional, having received acceptances in respect of 74.56 per cent of the equity. The offer is to remain open until further notice. There was no comment from the trust's management last night but they are now widely expected to capitulate after opposing the offer from the unit. The offer is for certified net asset value—the assets are around £75m—and is believed to be worth around 165p a share compared with a stock market

How the markets moved

Rises			
Adwest	6p to 254p	Fogarty, E.	6p to 141p
Banco Den	3p to 57p	Harcros	6p to 60p
Crosby House	10p to 125p	K. Shiner	49p
Dip. G.	16p to 144p	Spencer Gears	3p to 30p

Falls			
BP	13p to 852p	Oil Exploration	12p to 310p
Blacken Mines	41p to 561p	Pittington	9p to 483p
Copper-Neil	4p to 71p	Racal Elect	9p to 199p
Comptel	6p to 50p	Reckitt & Colman	8p to 435p
E. Rand Prod	8p to 341p	Sidlaw	7p to 95p
Portland	8p to 283p	Smiths Ind	11p to 155p
Hammy	12p to 323p	Thorn	8p to 349p
Wang Bronze	4p to 60p	Unilever	8p to 549p
Mining Supplies	4p to 64p	Vickers	9p to 170p
Metal Box	12p to 250p	Winkelmak	8p to 539p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	1.67	1.62
Austria Sch	29.75	27.75
Belgium Fr	44.75	41.75
Canada \$	2.08	2.01
Denmark Kr	11.26	10.36
Finland Mk	7.80	7.55
France Fr	9.07	8.75
Germany Dm	4.12	3.98
Greece Dr	75.50	71.50
Hongkong S	8.80	8.35
Italy L	1635.00	1580.00
Japan Yu	463.00	438.00
Netherlands G	4.46	4.24
Norway Kr	9.91	9.55
Portugal Esc	79.00	75.00
S Africa R	1.85	1.73
Spain Ps	158.00	152.00
Sweden Kr	9.01	8.66
Switzerland Fr	4.04	3.82
US \$	1.88	1.83
Yugoslavia Dnr	37.50	35.00

Smilies fell back: 93.5 per cent effective rate 33.45 per cent.

Gold lost \$0.50 an ounce to \$157.625.

SDR-S was 1.19901 on Tuesday, while SDR-E was 0.652538.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1439.9 (previous 1441.9).

Reports, pages 20 and 22

On other pages

Business appointments	21	Mitchell Cotts	18
Appointments vacant	21	S. Simpson	21
Wall Street	22		
Bank Base Rates Table	22		
Secur			
Annual Statements:			
Seco Holdings	19	Prospectus:	18
Majestic Investments	18	Stag Furniture	18

Interim Statements:			
Crown House	22		
Imperial Continental Gas	17		
Milbury Limited	21		
Salt Piron	21		
South Crofty	21		

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

£250m Channel power link planned

By Ross Davies

Proposals for a 2,500-megawatt submarine link between Britain and France have been agreed by the Central Electricity Generating Board and by its counterpart, Electricité de France. The total cost at present price levels is put at £250m and will be shared equally between the two authorities.

The cable, which could be commissioned within the next five years, will use a 160Mw link between Dungeness and Equihen, near Boulogne, laid in 1961 and at present out of service.

Announcing the agreement in London yesterday, Mr Glyn England, CEGB chairman, said he and Marcel Bouteux, his opposite number, had yet to secure the approval of their respective Governments.

It is known, however, that the link was on the agenda of the talks that ended yesterday between Mr Callaghan and Mr Giscard d'Estaing, the French President. Mr England appeared confident the scheme would proceed, and said that some

development contracts for the British shore installation had already been placed.

The link, which he describes as an "exciting proposition", would enable the two countries to trade electricity, thus reducing the costs of both state authorities. In France, for example, people start and finish work earlier and Electricity de France, therefore, has electricity to spare when British demand is peaking.

Mr England also presents the proposals as a way of saving up to 500,000 tonnes of oil a year, and of "exporting" as electricity up to a million tonnes of British coal. This, however, would depend upon the National Coal Board's ability to produce more coal than the CEGB needs for British consumption and at a price likely to suit French buyers.

A more contentious point is the extent to which the two state authorities will have power to short-circuit industrial action by their employees. French power workers have been in dispute over pay

for the past two weeks, and consumers are suffering power cuts.

Mr England said yesterday that the present link would have made a "useful contribution" during the power cuts caused in this country by the recent unofficial action of CEGB employees.

That it did not do so is because the link has been broken for much of this year. The present cable lies on the seabed and is constantly falling foul of anchors and trawls, particularly on the French side. The new link, which would follow much the same route as the old one, would be buried about 15 metres deep in the sand.

If there is to be any controversy over the placing of the contracts—which might be next year—it is likely to be not between London and Paris but between them and Brussels. An arrangement to split the work between contractors in Britain and France might attract the notice of officials in Brussels concerned with competition policy.

Business Diary, page 19

New Letter of Intent to IMF likely

By Caroline Atkinson

A letter from the Chancellor to the International Monetary Fund setting out the details of their recent talks will probably be published this week.

It may be in the form of a Letter of Intent with an outline of the policy commitments which the Government is making to the fund in return for the continuation until the end of 1978 of the standby credit arranged last December.

It is expected that figures for the two key variables which the IMF monitor will be given, although they will almost certainly not have the hard status of targets. Reaching agreement on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement for 1978-79 seems to have proved little difficulty.

There should be room for substantial tax cuts in the Spring Budget even within the £8,600m central estimate of the PSBR which was incorporated in the original Letter of Intent.

The latest private Treasury forecast of next year's PSBR is believed to be only £6,800m.

However, it has been less easy to agree a figure for the Domestic Credit Expansion (the domestic supply of money excluding the Treasury's money supply of flows in or out of the country). The Government is extremely unwilling to be tied down at this stage on its money policy for next year.

Heavy dollar fall after Basle talks failure

From Peter Norman Frankfurt, Dec 13

The dollar today slumped to a record low against the Deutsche mark and the Swiss franc as news spread through the foreign exchange markets that the meeting of western central bankers in Basle had come to no agreement on a new joint initiative to support the United States currency.

In London currency dealers said the dollar was dropping like a stone after the agreement in Basle. The Bank of England appeared to be adding to the dollar's troubles by selling some of its reserves to hold up the pound.

Sterling closed 90 points up on the day against the dollar at \$1.8405 with an unchanged effective rate index of 63.4. The dollar dropped to a new record low of 2.44 Deutsche marks and 2.0885 Swiss francs during trading, although it subsequently closed a little higher at DM2.1505 and Swf2.1040.

Although it had been rumoured yesterday that Swiss banks and other western powers would dump dollars on the market if the central bankers meeting failed to produce any tangible result, no communique was issued after the bankers ended their discussions.

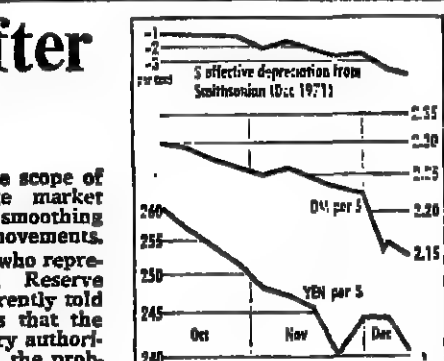
While one or two European central bankers said afterwards that the Basle talks had been useful, it was clear today that the central banks in Frankfurt and

refused to enlarge the scope of their foreign exchange market intervention beyond smoothing out erratic currency movements.

Mr Henry Wallich, who represented the Federal Reserve system at Basle, apparently told other central bankers that the United States monetary authorities sympathized with the problems caused by the fall in the dollar for the European countries and Japan. But he made clear that intervention was a political decision and that the Carter Administration was not prepared to embark on such a step.

It is possible that the relative calm of foreign exchange markets yesterday encouraged central bankers into believing that the dollar had already staged a modest, but successful, technical recovery from the lows of early last week and would withstand the absence of an official statement from Basle.

That the bankers could not even agree on an advisory declaration designed to give the American currency moral support, rather than physical support, may well indicate the gulf that exists between the American position and that of the hard currency nations of West Germany, Switzerland and Japan. Certainly this was how the foreign exchange markets interpreted events. Today's fall in the dollar produced intervention to support it by the central banks in Frankfurt and



Effective depreciation from September 1971

Zurich. In Frankfurt the Federal Bank appeared to intervene on a relatively modest scale only.

However, close observers of the foreign exchange markets estimated that the Federal Bank had bought foreign currencies worth DM5,000m between the beginning of October and the end of last week.

As a result, the latest focus on this Thursday's meeting at the Federal Bank Council in Frankfurt.

It has long been expected that the Council would debate whether or not to announce a new supply target for 1978 at this meeting. In view of the currency inflow arising from the weakness of the dollar it is now expected to announce a cut in German bank rate from the 3.5 per cent level that has been in force since September, 1975.

Dr Emminger, president of the Federal Bank, said last week the level of currency intervention was not threatening Germany's economic policy. Leading article, page 15

Textile nations agree on pact extension

Geneva, Dec 13.—The world's main textile trading nations today reached an understanding to extend the multi-fibre agreement (MFA) for another four years from the start of next month.

Sources attending the negotiations said that some modifications to the pact, which expires at the end of the year, have been agreed and that these modified provisions will be presented to the full 50-nation members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade tomorrow morning.

The 50 nations, though, the understanding was between the big textile trading nations, the main headline exporters that had stalled the talks—Brazil and India—were part of it.

There was little doubt that the modified provisions to establish an extension would pass the textiles committee and be opened for initialling soon.

The 50 nations that adhere to the MFA account for between 80 per cent and 85 per cent of the world trade in textiles. This amounts to about \$50,000m (about £2,775m).

Stonehouse advisers criticized in report

Continued from page 1

of a company; a suggestion that the rules of the Stock Exchange should cover all public offerings of shares; that an interim statement should be issued; and that section 197 of the Companies Act, which requires disclosure in accounts of any loan to a company officer, should be extended to directors as well.

They also suggest that extra-dition procedures be made easier—Mr Stonehouse was arrested in Australia in 1975 after disappearing from Miami Beach, feared drowned.

The report itself is an account of a financial jigsaw which was assembled by Mr Stonehouse to hide the failure of the public flotation of British Bangladesh Trust in November, 1972.

"The serious wrongdoing extends very considerably beyond the offences for which Mr Stonehouse was later tried and convicted," the inspectors say. But although the report demonstrates that there were serious breaches of company law, particularly Section 54 of the 1948 Companies Act which prohibits the use of company money to buy its own shares, a spokesman for the Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday said no further action was considered.

Mr Stonehouse used his private companies, the inspectors say, "if they represented an additional hip pocket in his own trousers".

The effect of his personality was to be crucial to many involved with him. "Most held Mr Stonehouse in awe and great respect," he treated them well, too, "and for weeks along the corridors of power and enabled them to rub shoulders with men of considerable eminence who were themselves impressed by his charm."

The inspectors trace Mr Stonehouse's problems to the publication of a critical article on the launching of British Bangladesh Trust in *The Sunday Times*.

The timing of *The Sunday Times* article was unfortunate for the issue and Mr Stonehouse and his colleagues became very concerned at the success of the venture. "In the event it only succeeded

by breaches of the Companies Act through the lending of money by BBT to directors, to buy shares," Mr Stonehouse, the inspectors say, "was ruined on the treadmill of pride."

Once the company was set up, however, it was important for it to have a clean bill of health from its auditors to obtain a "section 123" licence from the Department of Trade to act as a bank.

Such a licence was obtained on December 10, 1973, after the audit for which Sir Charles and Mr Levine were criticized. On the basis of the same accounts, the company also had a rights issue for £249,000, which again involved breaches of the Companies Act.

"The circumstances of this case do not entitle the solicitors to hide behind the skirts of the auditors," the inspectors say. "Neither Sir Charles nor Mr Levine made sufficient inquiry into their respective spheres."

As a result the members of BBT were given the information they might reasonably have expected.

The directors too come in for strong criticism. "Although we find that the auditors did not ask for adequate information from the directors as to their shareholding, we doubt that such information had it been specifically requested, would have been truthfully given."

Elsewhere the directors are accused of "gross breaches of fiduciary duty" in connection with guarantees given for loans but not registered.

The inspectors criticize Mr John McGrath, former chief accountant of the London Co-operative Society, and Mr Kazi Badruddin Ahmed, whose idea BBT was.

Neither of them in their directorial capacities gave BBT the benefit of their independent judgment and thought. Both lacked independence of mind and, without scruple, did Mr Stonehouse's bidding.

Mr Keith Witte, the general manager of BBT, who had extensive banking experience, and officers in the company, are also criticized.

The irregularities of the business were not confined to its launch. "The unapologetic start to the business of BBT, pale when compared with the irregularities which were to follow."

"It involved itself in 'window dressing' to improve its

balance sheet. The largest transaction was a deposit of £1m with Cornhill Consolidated, another "second-hand" bank, which ran into trouble, against a deposit from an affiliate.

Mr Stonehouse tried to rectify the problems his group had got itself into, by investing in securities on the Stock Exchange, against the advice of his general manager. He also invested on his own account, involving Rowe Rudd and Co, his broker, in considerable loss.

"Whatever his system," the inspectors report, "it was singularly unsuccessful."

Sir Charles said through his secretary that he was not in a position to make an immediate comment. On Monday he described it as "outrageous" that professional firms and others who had been criticized should have no opportunity to meet such criticisms until after they had been published.

Commenting on the report last night, Mr Eric Levine said: "I do not agree with the inspectors' findings in so far as they concern me. It would, however, not be right for me to comment on the efforts of inspectors attempting to discharge a difficult task."

Sir Charles Hardie: role in preparation of audit criticized.

balance sheet. The largest transaction was a deposit of £1m with Cornhill Consolidated, another "second-hand" bank, which ran into trouble, against a deposit from an affiliate.

IMPERIAL CONTINENTAL GAS ASSOCIATION Interim Statement

Consolidated Results (unaudited)	Half Year to 30.3.77	Half Year to 30.3.78	Full Year to 31.3.78
Turnover	20,377	20,378	21,377
	2,080	2,080	2,080
	66,581	42,701	127,078
Trading Profit	5,311	4,505	10,764
Depreciation	4,022	3,058	7,047
Income from Investments	1,288	1,417	11,717
Interest (net)	145	105	10,832
	(246)	(246)	(616)
Group Results before Taxation	1,196	1,276	22,158
Taxation	686	983	12,376
Group Results after Taxation	510	293	9,782
Minority interests	58	45	125
Results attributable to ICGB	452	248	9,657

The consolidated results are those of the Association and its subsidiaries excluding its Belgian subsidiaries.

Belgian subsidiary companies are not consolidated in accordance with the dispensations granted by the Department of Trade.

Dividends The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March, 1978 of 4p per stock unit on the £40,413,118 Ordinary Capital Stock, costing £1,616,535. In addition, the Directors have declared a supplementary dividend in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1977 of 0.08122p per stock unit, costing £32,824, to compensate stockholders for the retrospective reduction in the basic rate of income tax.

The two dividends totalling 4.08122p per stock unit will be paid on the 21st March

Leyland job losses if output lags

By Clifford Webb

Mr Derek Whitaker, Leyland Cars' managing director, yesterday gave a warning that he would have to reduce the labour force early next year unless productivity improved considerably.

In an article in *Leyland Cars Mirror*, the works newspaper, he said: "There is no way that our current market share, which was 21.7 per cent last month, can be accepted."

"The first six months of 1978 will be absolutely crucial. If we do nothing during that short space of time to improve production and increase productivity, then the company will be lost in size and jobs will be lost."

"That is no threat. In fact we are almost past the point of no return already. However, I sense a changing attitude among employees. The majority, I believe, now realize the gravity of our situation."

Leyland's problems are not all internal. More than 51,000 vehicles and three million man-hours have been lost in the past four months because of strikes in suppliers' plants. Hardly a day has passed when Leyland has not been faced by up to 20 different supplier disputes.

The result is that it is being forced to produce large numbers of incomplete cars because of component shortages.

This would have been worse but for alternative supplies. Design centre: Leyland's urgently needed new range of cars will be speeded by the most advanced computer-controlled design centre in Europe, which has just been installed at a cost of £250,000.

It will produce detailed design drawings six times faster and increase accuracy. The first news of the new installation at Leyland's Cowley plant was given yesterday by Dr B.H. Emmerson, the execu-

tive engineer in charge of engineering computer services. He said: "We are sick and tired of all the anti-Leyland stories. It is time we told the world that in some areas we are second to none."

"Leyland was the first company outside the United States to have computer-aided design. That was in the middle 1960s. "With this new centre we are really beginning to reap the dividends of all our early computer design work. In virtually any engineering design process using the right computer techniques is rather like having seven league boots."

The new centre, which produces drawings in minutes instead of hours, came too late to help ADO 88, Leyland's £250m new Mini due for launching in late 1979. But it is already working on ADO 10, 11 and 12, the new medium saloon range which will follow in 1980.



Mr Derek Whitaker: next six months absolutely crucial.

Plea to car unions: 'stop the industry bleeding to death'

By Peter Waymark

Visiting Correspondent

An urgent appeal to union leaders to help stop the motor industry bleeding to death through industrial disputes was made last night by Mr David Plastow, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Mr Plastow, who was speaking at the society's annual banquet in London, stressed that he was not "bashing" the unions. But he criticized the industry's strike record and called for stronger union leadership to deal with unofficial disputes.

He said the number of vehicles produced in Britain this year had been severely curtailed by labour disputes and this had allowed import penetration to increase to a figure that few would have thought possible just a year or two ago.

He told his audience: "Time is running out. If we do not take action now, then some day we will be attending not a memorial service for the British motor industry, but a memorial service for the industry."

Optimism on US-Japan trade talks

Mrs Juanita Kreps, Commerce Secretary, said Mr Nobuhiko Ushiba, the Japanese Minister of Overseas Economic Affairs, in a meeting with her said that he was "optimistic" that the United States and Japan would move closer together in their trade talks.

Yesterday, the United States politely rejected the Japanese proposals for dealing with the trade imbalance between the two countries. Kreps, reiterating that the Japanese proposal falls short of American desires, noted that "this is only the first stage in our discussions and so we are optimistic that we will move closer together and indeed the minister made such a remark in the course of our discussion."

Specifically, Kreps told Japanese businessmen after the meeting that the United States would like to achieve tariff reductions by Japan faster than the eight years the Japanese proposed and that America is interested particularly in eliminating quotas by the Japanese.

Three groups on pay black list are named

By Our Industrial Editor

The Treasury has confirmed the names of three more companies liable to sanctions for alleged breaches of pay policy, but it is still declining to give other names because this "would definitely not be in the best public interest."

The three companies are J. W. Spencer, Engineers, of Surrey; Reynolds Tanker Services, of Gloucestershire; and S. Redfern, of Lancashire. They are among 11 on the blacklist for possible sanctions, such as loss of government contracts and withdrawal of discretionary export credits.

It is stated by the Treasury that these three were in breach of phase two pay guidelines and one was also in breach of phase one guidelines. Of the 11, which include the only previously named concern, James Mackie, of Northern Ireland, five are said to have breached both phases one and two of current pay policy, five in breach of phase two, and one in breach of phase three.

Not long ago management of the government-aided Triang Pedigree concern rejected a claim as well above Whitehall criteria and put forward a counter offer, which was rejected. Compromise proposals have been apparently put forward, but the Triang management is in a difficult position, given its considerable involvement with the Department of Industry.

Whitehall tightens its advertising

By Patricia Tisdall

Procedures for the purchase of production material for press advertisements are being tightened by the Central Office of Information in an attempt to reduce costs. The office, which handles most of the Government's advertising and is probably Britain's biggest advertiser, will concentrate practically all its work through nine "approved" companies in the next year.

Letters listing the production houses concerned are going out to the 18 London-based advertising agencies used by the office. A year ago allegations that agencies, some of which work for the office, had received bribes from blackmarket sources were investigated by Scotland Yard. While no charges were laid, the investigation drew attention to the possibility that suppliers' discounts might not always be passed on by agencies.

The office, through a working party which included representatives of the Stationery Office and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, has been studying production work for press advertising since 1974.

It says the new method of purchasing has been set up as a result of this working party's recommendations and has no connection with the police investigation.

But the new scheme, to be introduced in January, enables a volume discount to be negotiated direct by the office with the production companies instead of through sub-contractors. The office expects to spend about £17m on advertising during 1977-78.

Slight upturn forecast for construction industry

By John Huxley

Construction is slowly emerging from its prolonged recession, according to forecasts for the industry published today.

After a series of pessimistic reports, the joint forecasting committee for the building and civil engineering economic development committees (Little Neddies) sounds a note of cautious optimism, echoing brighter prospects for the economy as a whole.

The committee believes that the worst of the recession occurred this year, for which new construction output was forecast to decline by 10 per cent compared with 1976. Next year an upturn of 2 per cent is predicted and a further improvement of 3 per cent is expected for 1979.

Although the industry as a whole appears to be turning the corner, improvement is expected to be patchy with some sectors remaining depressed. The committee welcomes the recent government package, £400m for the industry next year and a further £181m in 1979. But it says that the public sector still offers the worst prospects, even if the whole of the amounts allocated is spent, which appears doubtful.

Average yearly output for the public sector, excluding housing, is likely to be 28 per cent lower than the average for the years 1970 to 1976. In all three years, declines in the level of public housebuilding are also forecast. Increases in output are expected in 1978 and 1979, after a fall this year.

Prospects for the private industrial sector are bright. After a modest increase this year, output is expected to rise more strongly in 1978, with a further but moderate increase in 1979. Output for the private commercial sector is expected this year to decline by 10 per cent, but in the outlook for 1978 and 1979 is good.

In repairs and maintenance, too, output is expected to increase both this year and next. Already, this sector accounts for a third of all construction output.

The forecasts reflect the industry's slowly growing confidence, although they will confirm the expectations of the civil engineers who will not share in the general, if small, revival. Recent surveys suggest that even more money made available for civil engineering—and it seems that about £100m of the £181m earmarked for 1979 will go to housing—projects are not ready to go ahead.

Aid plea to Mr Shore: The National House-Building Council has urged Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, to ensure that part of the £400m package for the construction industry goes into the private housing sector.

Mr Andrew Tait, director-general of the council, says in a message to half the council could be done by the provision of severe and other infrastructure, such as roads. This, he says, would not only help potential home-buyers in 1978 and 1979 but also create jobs.

Financial Editor, page 19

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A national plan for industry by compromise?

From Dr A. J. Berry

Sir, The central paradox of national economic planning is that a theory of planning would require goals to be established whereas the reality of politics is that goals are the stuff of debate and conflict. To ask, as Mr Warren (December 7) does, political parties of the left and right to agree on national goals for economic activity is to ask them to deny their political identity.

Since Mr Selwyn Lloyd founded the NEDC in 1961 national planning has been a central issue in political management. The foundation of the NEDC kept the issue between Government, industry and the unions. The Labour Government of 1964 saw the establishment of the DEA with one explicit purpose: to take the problem of national economic planning inside government. The subsequent fiasco of the national plan was as much caused by a genuine difficulty in the task of planning as by a political need to rush it all through by the 1966 election. The subsequent unhappy history of the plan and indeed both its sponsor and the DEA were a measure of the disenchantment which followed. Even the publication of *The Task Ahead* in 1968 did little to relieve the gloom.

The advent of Selwyn policies and the Tory government of 1970-74 ensured that task of national planning was limited in its scope. The two elections of 1974 brought a Labour government which through its sectoral planning exercise (the so-called industrial strategy) demonstrated that some real planning had taken place. The idea of planning agreements, now seemingly in a very low gear indeed, were designed to link together the issue of corporate level decision making and national level decision making.

It has been argued that even if national planning were desirable it is not possible because nobody knows enough about the economy to construct a plan. Nobody knows how suitably to articulate its implementation.

But the most serious problem is that much of the language of planning is couched in terms of goals or objectives and coordination of programmes to achieve them. However, the key issue for our country and its industries is planning for turbulence, that is the problem of adaptation. This letter thought could well be the basis for a logical and long and consistently recognized the problems and have advocated some of the "remedies" put forward in the report.

In far too many instances the transport function has been regarded as an unfortunate

economy will "dovetail" to use Mr Warren's favourite phrase, is an appealing idea. Obviously if planners are to clear heads, rather than human beings, they will. But the evidence is, if anything, that industries dovetail less well in planned economies than in market economies. In planned economies there is a greater tendency than in market economies for industries to produce goods that neither other industries nor the consumer wants; industries fail to deliver what other industries want (particularly spare parts); and investment projects to be abandoned half way to completion.

Are the planned economies planned? I suspect that Goshop in Russia is partially a facade—in contrast to George Brown's economic plan or the current Government's Industrial Strategy and planning agreements, which are nine-tenths facade. When a brass bolt factory is expanded in Russia, this is quite likely to be because the factory manager has found himself swamped with unplanned orders for brass bolts; or are we to believe that the Goshop bureaucrats calculate the number of brass bolts required by the entire Russian economy years in advance?

Yours faithfully,
R. S. MUSGRAVE,
24 Garden Avenue,
Trafford Park Moor,
Duckworth Hill SEQ,
December 7.

Doing business with the Chinese

From Dr M. T. C. Fang

Sir, In your article "Learning how to do business with the Chinese" (December 5), I was most surprised at the main advice given: that "the full technical description and technology of the goods should be sent in English."

Since, in my estimation, there are still very few people in China with the ability to understand technical and scientific English (and more especially so in the case of advanced technology for which no dictionaries are available), the full significance of the advice may not be immediately clear to the corporation concerned.

This could, in part, explain why the process, judging by my own experience, could equally take several years. It could therefore be a considerable advantage to British exporters if technical specifications were translated into correct Chinese (unlike a translation for one of the nationalized corporations which was riddled with such elementary errors as numbers and units being incorrectly translated).

I would therefore recommend that British firms seeking success in exporting to China should place greater importance in providing, if possible, good, accurate translations of their literature to the Chinese. Yours faithfully,
M. T. C. FANG,
3 Hornby Lane,
Calderstone, Liverpool L18 3RH,
December 6.

Transport management

From the Director-General, The Chartered Institute of Transport

Sir, The National Economic Development Office report, *Trading with Europe: Through Transport and the Total Export Concept*, contains—as the comments of your Transport Correspondent on November 29 apply—many constructive warnings and recommendations which all industrial and commercial users of transport would be ill-advised to ignore.

The significance and importance of transport to the life of the community and to the economic well-being of a nation must surely need little emphasis today—or so one would think. The figure of £1,000m per annum in unnecessary costs will shock many but, I suspect, shock which have long and consistently recognized the problems and have advocated some of the "remedies" put forward in the report.

In far too many instances the transport function has been regarded as an unfortunate

necessity in the manufacturing and selling process, contributing little and costing much. May I, therefore, add strong support to the recommendations in the report which bear particularly, as a prime requirement on the need for education and training leading to a thoroughly professional understanding approach and improved management performance where transport activity is concerned. A further requirement of education and training is a demanding equally strong support, that is transport management (I stress "management") must be upgraded and represented—largely in its own right—in the higher levels of industry. Until this is achieved and acted upon, damaging costs, identified in the report, will continue.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,
D. N. LOCKE,
Director-General,
The Chartered Institute of Transport,
80 Portland Place,
London W1N 4DP.

EEC directive to agents

From Sir Derek Walker-Smith

Mr Sir, *For Hertfordshire East* (10 November 1977) I was surprised to find that the report of the Law Commission, which contains strong criticism of some of the provisions of the draft directive, was published.

On the Law Commission's report being brought to the attention of the committee, it was agreed to refer further discussion of the directive to enable consideration to be given to the points made in the Law Commission's report. It is therefore premature to attribute any final position to the committee on this matter at this time.

Your Obedient Servant,
DEREK WALKER-SMITH,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

EEC rejects Benn view of coal stocks

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Dec 14

Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, described himself as "bitterly disappointed" here today by the failure of EEC energy ministers to approve proposals for the financing of coal stockpiles and encouraging the use of coal instead of oil in power stations.

More than 30 per cent of all investment in the coal industry in the EEC, British Mr Benn said and Britain accounted for half of Community production.

The European Commission had proposed spending about £65m over the next years to encourage the use of coal in power stations. At present only 23 per cent of EEC power stations are coal-fired, and a fifth 52 new units are expected to be on stream between now and 1985 only 15 will use coal, whereas 60 will burn oil or gas.

The Commission had also proposed that the stocking of up to 20 million tonnes of EEC-produced coal should be partly financed out of the budget of the European Coal and Steel Community. The aim would be to reduce the risk of pit closures during periods of cyclical downturn in demand.

The proposals are part of a wider-ranging programme to reduce the EEC's dependence on imported energy. Only Britain and Germany, however, have a real interest in the coal proposals. Most other member states rely on imported coal, which is generally cheaper than British or German, and are not prepared to agree to any more to encourage coal use in power stations unless it also applies to imported coal.

Attempts by Dr Guido Brunner, the EEC Commissioner for Energy, to get member states to agree to production and consumption targets for different kinds of energy for the year 1985 also ran into difficulties. Mr Benn made clear British dislike of a policy based on precise targets which he said introduced an unnecessary element of rigidity. Such targets were in any case notoriously unreliable. For example, installed nuclear capacity in the EEC by 1985, for example, had fallen by half in the last four years.

From Mr R. S. Musgrave

Sir, Mr Warren, the Oxford lecturer in geography, who ventures into economics in your columns (December 7) is as uninspiring as academics usually are, when outside their own subjects. His advocacy of economic planning merely begs a whole range of questions which any moderately well-informed non-academic knows to plague the whole planning versus free market argument.

1 If planning is better than the free market, why are the market economies years ahead of the planned ones and why are the former able to lend the latter the money with which to attempt to catch up?

2 Why are the planned economies catching up so slowly, if at all? Copying should be easy compared with innovating.

3 The way in which technology advances is unpredictable as are the consumers' tastes, and as are the origin of many raw materials, namely geological discoveries. Thus surely economic plans must be so tentative as barely to constitute plans.

4 That industries in a planned

He is in fact under a misapprehension as to the status of the matter in that committee. The committee had received a draft report and embarked on

discussion of it, approving certain paragraphs, while the report of the Law Commission, which contains strong criticism of some of the provisions of the draft directive, was published.

On the Law Commission's report being brought to the attention of the committee, it was agreed to refer further discussion of the directive to enable consideration to be given to the points made in the Law Commission's report. It is therefore premature to attribute any final position to the committee on this matter at this time.

Your Obedient Servant,
DEREK WALKER-SMITH,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

MAJEDIE INVESTMENTS LIMITED

At the Sixty Sixth Annual General Meeting held in London on 13th December 1977 Mr. T. B. Barlow, the Chairman, made the following points when he reported to members.

Our Company has again increased its profit significantly from £148,374 to £204,704 but unfortunately this cannot be passed on to shareholders as the dividend control is strict. The dividend this year therefore has been increased by the maximum allowed to 67.85p per 10p share costing £95,000. Our Revenue Reserve has increased by £247,000 and now stands at £1,867,000.

During the year there was a general improvement in market conditions, which together with our investment policies has resulted in the Company's assets now being worth more than £7 million.

Since the 30th September the stock market has not been so buoyant as present indications are as always uncertain; even so as stated in the report we face the future with confidence.

The Report and Accounts were unanimously adopted.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any Preference Shares

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(Registered in England No. 136403)

Capitalisation Issue of 857,770 10p cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the above Preference Shares to the Official List. Dividends will be payable in equal half-yearly instalments on 31st March and 30th September each year. The first payment, amounting to 3.02p per share (net of related tax credit), will be made on 31st March, 1978.

Particulars relating to the Preference Shares are available in the Statistical Service of Extel Statistical Services Limited and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 4th January, 1978, from:

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London EC2V 8JE
14th December, 1977

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Mitchell Cotts Group Limited



Chairman Mr. J. L. Dick, C.B.E., F.C.A.

1976/7 RESULTS

	1977	1976
Profit before Interest and Taxation	£15,366,000	£12,536,000
Profit before Taxation	£11,669,000	£9,544,000
Funds Employed	£80,177,000	£73,051,000

Dividends per Ordinary Share

Interim—	0.656 p	0.656 p
Proposed Final—	2.744 p	2.670 p
Total for the year—	3.400 p	3.326 p
Dividend Cover	2.31 times	2.15 times
Earnings per Ordinary Share	8.03 p	7.22 p

Profit Contribution

By Principal Activities	%	%	By Territories	%	%
Engineering	61	64	United Kingdom	16	14
Freight, Transport and Storage	23	25	Southern Africa	68	81
Commodity Trading	5	3	East and Central Africa	20	16
Vehicle Distribution	6	6	Europe, N. & S. America & Australasia	(4)	(11)
Agriculture	5	2			
	100	100		100	100



Mitchell Cotts Group Limited,
Cotts House, Camomile Street, London, EC3A 7BJ.
Telephone: 01-283 1234

For a copy of the annual report and accounts please contact the Secretary

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Improving earnings quality at ICL

ICL is looking unstoppable at the moment. On the back of virtually no price increase its profits were up 31 per cent to £30.3m in the year to end September and sales were up 45 per cent to £419m. While part of the growth has come from the acquisition of Singer Business Machines, the underlying improvement is about 20 per cent, some 5 per cent better than the computer industry as a whole. The Singer interests, meanwhile, were ahead by about a third in turnover terms.

Since the profits dip of 1972 ICL has thus accumulated an enviable profit record. The order book is apparently even longer than it was a year ago, and the only question is why the shares are still showing some scepticism, selling as they do on a price earnings ratio of only 4 at 214p and yielding 54 per cent on a dividend which is more than five times covered.

It is true that there is always something of a gamble on the next model range being right and on the rental side of the business not suddenly running into problems of obsolescence. But for ICL the former of these problems is still a long way away and the group's continued ability to sell its older 1900 range suggests that the latter is no particular worry either—especially since ICL reckons to recover the cost of its rental equipment over about 22 months. Clearly as the proportion of rental and maintenance/service business builds up—accounted for 48 per cent of turnover last year—the stream of deferred income and thus the quality of earnings builds up as well.

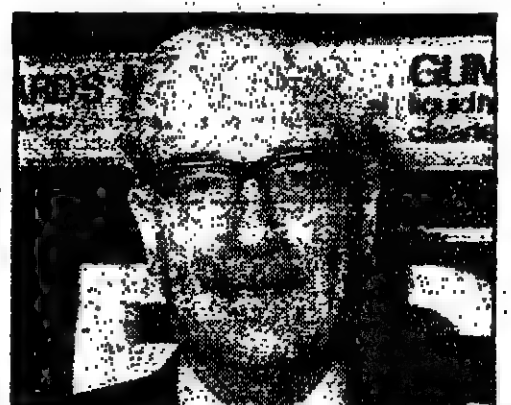
ICL's only real problem at the moment then, given that there is no sign of a let up in orders, is capacity to produce. Perhaps £20m of turnover was lost through industrial disruption last year and the marginal profit at this level is high. But ICL is in a comfortable position to finance both a bigger rental sales and a higher level of capital investment to expand capacity. Borrowings were down last year and some £9.4m of deferred tax has been taken into reserves so the earnings ratios will show a significant improvement in the balance sheet.

LRC International

An income-boosting rights issue

Increasing doubts about LRC International's future growth prospects were hardly allayed yesterday, firstly by the mere 9.7 per cent increase in first half pre-tax profits to £4.1m and declining trading margins and secondly by comparison with Smith & Nephew's strong performance.

LRC is still saddled with persistent loss making areas and has been caught by the consumer spending downturn. While it is strong in contraceptives, it is fairly weak in comparison with its competitors in other



Sir Edward Howard, chairman of LRC International.

markets and the volume growth in the United Kingdom soap market appears to have been acquired at some cost.

The one-for-one rights issue at par (10p) to raise £4.3m is not that reassuring either. Raising that sum of money is not going to transform the balance sheet, which showed borrowings of £15.5m in late November. Although much stress is laid on the capital expenditure programme of £5.3m, the rights seems more destined to ease the burden of working costs. In addition the capital projects under way are not of the sort that will radically change earnings.

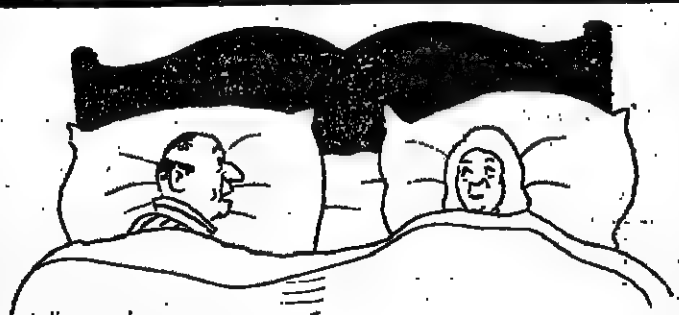
Business Diary: Meany once more • Norland's Alcoa

George Meany is fit and well. His voice is strong and his power undiminished. At 83 the president of the 13.7 million-member AFL-CIO trade union organisation has just been voted another two-year term of office and an handsome pay rise.

The almost 1,000 delegates to the AFL-CIO's "constitutional convention" in Los Angeles decided unanimously to increase their president's annual pay by \$20,000 (£10,900) to \$100,000 (£54,300); but the delegates also remembered the heir apparent, the exceptionally young Mr. Lane Kirkland, who has been George Meany's assistant for longer than he has been recalled. Kirkland's pay has been increased from \$60,000 (£32,600) to \$90,000 (£48,900) a year.

Kirkland spent 14 years as George Meany's executive assistant and has been the organization's secretary-treasurer since 1960. He was loudly cheered when he was elected unopposed once again to the AFL-CIO's number two post. But not surprisingly, the loudest cheers of all in the week-long meeting were from the members of plumbers union, local number two of New York—for George Meany.

Alcoa of Great Britain, the United Kingdom arm of the world's biggest aluminium company, is in the throes of a management shake-up which will result on January 1 in the arrival of a new chairman, managing director, financial director and head of its largest subsidiary. The chairman is to be Otto



"The easiest way out would be to give all the children skate board tokens."

Norland, whose appointment was announced in Business Diary in July. Norland is to remain as executive director of Hambro Bank and plans to devote about a third of his time to Alcoa.

Norland, who succeeds Dr Robert Berry, has wide experience in the shipping industry and is chairman of the finance study committee of the International Maritime Industries Forum. His managing director is to be a 46-year-old Frank Townsend, an Alcoa man for 22 years, who is to take up his first foreign posting for the company. He is at present market manager of alumina and chemicals in Alcoa's headquarters in Pittsburgh and is to take over in the United Kingdom from Ward Stewart, who has become European regional manager.

Unlike its North American competitors, Kaiser and Alcan, Alcoa does not operate an aluminium smelter in the

United Kingdom, but it has a big rolling mill in Swansea and a big recycling plant in Buckinghamshire. The head of the Swansea operation is to be Paul Griswold, who has 30 years' service with Alcoa and comes to the United Kingdom from the Dutch subsidiary. The new finance man is William Wyatt, formerly controller at Alcoa plant in the United States, who replaces John Hickman, now appointed financial manager for Alcoa Europe. Alcoa, normally a company which shuns publicity, was reluctant yesterday to herald the reshuffle as marking a significant change in company policy, although a spokesman said it wanted Alcoa GB to grow—and this means out-competing anyone.

Having introduced early retirement for his top executives, Edgar Bowring, chairman of the traders C. T. Bowring, is now

practising what he preaches. He is to bow out at the not so ripe old age of 62—three years before the group's mandatory retirement age—because, he says: "It is good for promotion."

In this case it is particularly good for promoting another Bowring, cousin Peter, who is 54 and has been deputy chairman since Edgar took the chair in 1973. As well as taking over the group chairmanship Peter Bowring will also become chairman of the group's banking arm, Bowmanger.

For Bowring will step up to succeed Edgar Bowring as chairman of C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings.

Edgar Bowring, who took over the chair on the sudden death of another cousin, Ian Skimring, will remain a non-executive director of Bowring's and says he is also "open to offers" elsewhere.

Advertising brings to mind the cobbler's children who went without shoes, in that it has no central system for publicising its history. Even in America, which tends to reverse its past, important records are being destroyed daily. In this country, much of the early development of commercial television has already been forgotten.

All this will be changed if a bunch of British advertising industry devotees organized by David Dumbard, director of information services at J. Walter Thompson, and chaired by Jimmy Williams, the former director general of the Advertising Association, has its way. The high-powered group has

formed a History of Advertising Trust, which is being registered as a foundation with charitable status. The trust will collate material to explain how old advertisements—already being sought by collectors—came to be planned and written and what results they achieved. A £100,000 appeal will shortly be made to the industry. There are plans for an exhibition and the search for premises is on. The first issue of a regular journal has been published this week and more patronage, the latest being Lord Thomson of Monifieth, chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority, are being signed up.

Decanter magazine organized a "blind tasting" yesterday to see if experienced whisky drinkers could distinguish standard blends from the much more expensive de luxe varieties.

Of the distillers' representatives present only one matched Business Diary's score which, at eight out of 12, was the best of the day. Only four people, for example, identified Chivas Regal as a de luxe blend.

Next, it is suggested, the panel should try to pick out the products of the Japanese distillers, which have been built in the shadow of Mount Fuji as copies of Scottish originals with the aid of thousands of "tourists" photographs. It may, the distillers' men said hopefully, prove easier.

Patricia Tisdall

King size changes in the cigarette market

Cigarette manufacturers face radical changes in their sales "mix" with the final phasing in of the EEC tax structure, due to take effect from the beginning of next month. As a result of the changeover, from a tax based on the weight of tobacco to a system related to the value of the end product, king size cigarettes, traditionally regarded as an occasional luxury by most British smokers, are likely to take over the lion's share of the market.

More important from the manufacturers' point of view is that smokers are showing every sign of discarding old loyalties and switching to new brands at the same time as making the change to king size.

Such developments have far-reaching implications in the British market for established manufacturers, particularly Imperial Tobacco, whose sales are to account for two thirds of the total, as well as presenting opportunities for smaller firms like Gallaher and Carreras Rothmans and aspiring newcomers to this market like British American Tobacco and Philip Morris.

Already, the first phase of tax harmonization, introduced in May 1976, has brought the share of sales held by king size cigarettes to over 10 per cent, up from 5 per cent. When the tax adjustment comes fully into operation the expectation is that this category's share of sales will increase to

between 70 and 80 per cent within five years.

The speed of the switch, as the evens of the last 18 months have proved conclusively, depends on price. If applied evenly by the manufacturers across the five main sizes of cigarette, the new method of tax collection would in theory mean a 10 per cent reduction in the retail price of king size cigarettes and an equivalent increase in the price of the smaller sized varieties.

The historical 20 to 30 per cent price gap created by the old structure, where tax (which accounts for 75 per cent of the retail price) is related to weight of tobacco, would diminish to a negligible point.

The erosion of the price gap naturally encourages smokers to opt for the larger size of cigarette. But the change could be accelerated by a repeat of the price war which followed the first phase of the "tax change." This was triggered by a bid by Imperial to buy its way into the king size sector.

Imperial's tactics only partially succeeded. The 15 per cent increase in the king size sector claimed for John Player King size last year had dropped to 11 per cent by August, after promotional support was raised. The company's other main runners, two king size versions of its Embassy range (one with and one without coupons), are estimated jointly to hold about 15 per cent of the sector.

This compares unfavourably with a share of over 33 per cent of sales in this sector of the market held by Gallaher's Benson & Hedges brand and more than 15 per cent for Rothmans King Size.

For competitive reasons, the cigarette producers, who want to avoid another price war, are reticent about their price plans after January 1. However, Gallaher has publicly declared its hand in stating that the recommended price of its product will remain the same under the new tax structure.

It says it has already absorbed tax and other increases of up to 6p a packet and no reduction in prices is possible.

The other producers have indicated that they will follow.

An inevitable consequence of the price war has been a drop in profit margins on bigger cigarettes. Where profit margins on king size cigarettes to be restored to the level achieved before 1976, it is estimated that the present recommended price would be 62.5p a packet rather than the prevailing 55p.

Recommended price lists are, of course, only a rough guide to prices actually charged. As the recent price war showed, manufacturers are prepared to drop well below them. However, one of the features of the new tax system is that this method of price cutting will become more costly.

The impact on each manu-

facturer of, in effect, subsidizing king size sales, varies according to the share of its output. The majority of Gallaher and Carreras Rothmans sales are of king size cigarettes, whereas Imperial's strength has always lain in the smaller categories. Consequently Gallaher and Rothmans have more to lose than Imperial by discounting.

Apart from acting as something of a disincentive to long-term discounting, the multiplier effect of the new tax system, which takes the ad valorem element up from a present level of 22 per cent to 30 per cent, encourages manufacturers to keep production costs down.

Cigarette coupons have almost disappeared. Their demise, which occurred much more quickly than was expected, has his Imperial hardest. More than 80 per cent of the company's cigarettes before 1976 were accompanied by coupons which had the advantage of binding a smoker to a particular brand.

Today, they are included with less than 15 per cent of the group's total.

All these changes have taken place against a background of overall declining sales. As stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie point out, unit sales of cigarettes have been declining steadily ever since swinging duty increases were imposed in the spring budget of 1974.

In each of the subsequent three years there were decreases of 0.3 per cent, 3.2 per cent and 1.5 per cent. For 1977, an even greater dip of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent is expected.

The manufacturers attribute the decline to straightforward consumer resistance to higher tax imposed prices, but undoubtedly greater awareness of health hazards has also played a part.

A trend to low tar smoking as well as the switch to king size cigarettes is working to Imperial's disadvantage. Wood Mackenzie in a recent review estimate that the group's share of overall sales has already declined from 66 per cent to 61 per cent and they forecast a further decline during the next two years to, at best, 57 per cent.

The only benefit to Imperial of the new tax system is that it releases funds formerly tied up in financing duty. The partial change in the system has already released Imperial £30m and a further once-and-for-all gain of £100m will be made from January.

The other established manufacturers will also receive gains equivalent to the size of their output. The traditional industry will therefore have funds available to fight incipient competition or to help, if its choice lies in this direction, to diversify into other possible less turbulent fields.

Mr Fraser—after the triumph the tribulations

Douglas Aiton discusses economic prospects for the Australians in 1978

Next year's economic outlook is a bleak one for Australia. Now that Mr Malcolm Fraser has regained office with a thumping majority he has to put behind him the euphoria of victory and set up the sobering prospect that within months he is going to be unpopular with the electorate.

Not that he is unaware of this—the reason for calling an unscheduled election was to secure office before bad times threatened his government. He has now grasped three years of uninterrupted power, but will have to bear the brunt of an ailing economy.

The immediate reaction to Mr Fraser's reelection has been a minor boom on the stock exchange, with particular emphasis on those companies associated with uranium. Mr Fraser has committed Australia to the mining and export of uranium, with the now, almost legendary "safeguards" being a condition.

Labour was not so committed to the uranium boom as it is today.

There is no doubt that the Australian Labour Party, generally, is not trusted by the business community. Although the party has made a reputation for its "Whitlam regime" to bridge the gap, the economy fell apart so disastrously that it will be a long time, if ever, before the stock exchanges react to a Labour government with anything but suspicion.

Given a healthy growing economy Labour might be tolerated, but the business community wants a Liberal government to stimulate enterprise and confidence. The Liberals are regarded as being tough and employing tactics that will in the long run work, whereas Labour is regarded as being soft on inflation, unempathetic to the problems of big business, distrustful of foreign investment and unreliable in its decisions.

So the stock exchanges of Australia are pleased, but it will not be long before the country has to face up to the first of the economic problems, the balance of payments. Almost every report for authoritative analysis of national and international economic trends contains a downward adjustment of previous predictions.

For Australia one country which has lost all in the balance of trade—Japan. The Japanese are encountering severe economic difficulties which will inevitably affect

Australia. On the one hand they are being forced to revalue the yen against the dollar, thereby increasing the cost of their exports and reducing their competitive edge. On the other, they are facing increasing artificial barriers to their imports.

Japan has dangerously large inventories of finished goods in both domestic and overseas markets. According to the downturn in export sales will adversely affect its economic growth, with a consequent reduction in demand for Australian resources.

Even if Japan and the rest of the world were pursuing the modest growth projections of a few months ago, Australia's balance of payments is such that despite protectionist measures it depends on a constant and fairly large flow of capital account in the short run this can be maintained by official borrowings, but some solid reexamination of private capital inflow will be required soon.

One particular advantage for Mr Fraser, with the people so solidly disenchanted with the Labour Party, is that his government will now be able to contemplate a medium-term economic policy as a real option. This was not possible even during the nearly 20 years of Menzies government, because that regime, although operating in stable times, did not achieve the authority in electoral terms of the present Fraser Government.

Exactly what any longer term plans would involve is not yet clear, but at least the attempt to reduce inflation at the expense of at least initially raising unemployment will now be continued. There is no doubt that the 1975-1977 Fraser Government was reducing market inflation, although the extravagant election campaign claim of having halved it from 18 per cent to 9, was difficult to justify.

There is also no doubt that unemployment, which became serious during the Whitlam years, worsened during the first Fraser Government and at present there is nothing to suggest that it will not continue to deteriorate. It was originally expected, in fact, that the election would be fought on Mr Fraser's mismanagement of unemployment, but in the end it was shown that the electorate did not necessarily admire Labour's performance in that area either.

So unemployment remains the greatest immediate problem.

The full impact of the balance of payments problem is difficult to assess. Figures just released show that Australia's balance of payments deficit for November was an overall \$470m (about \$43m), compared with a \$463m surplus in October and a \$446m deficit in September.

There is no doubt that the government has not received the favourable response it expected in the balance of pay-

ments with the announcement some weeks ago of huge overseas borrowing programmes.

One other area of difficulty for Mr Fraser's government is its relationship—which has never been healthy—with the trade union movement. Although the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Mr Bob Hawke, has established a strong reputation as someone who is willing to solve industrial disputes, even he is not at all encouraging about industrial unrest.

Early this week he said that the Fraser government's re-election could lead to confrontation next year because "the Government was likely to intensify its attacks on unions as a diversionary tactic for its failure to manage the economy."

This sort of statement can be interpreted as being predictable and political, but it could nevertheless be true to some extent in the sense that the Fraser style is not the sort of conservative government in which the union movement could be expected to respond, especially when legislation directed at preventing strikes has been planned.

Growing balance of payments difficulties, inflation still running at more than 10 per cent



Mr Malcolm Fraser, the newly re-elected Prime Minister: he faces problems on several fronts.

and industrial uncertainty are bad enough, but unemployment at 7 per cent, and going up, will be the biggest problem now facing the country.



SERCK LIMITED

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Year ended 30 September 1977	1977	1976
Group Sales	78,400	67,900
Profit before interest	8,890	7,274
Interest Charges (net)	366	137
Group Profit before Taxation	9,256	7,137
Group Profit after Taxation	4,636	3,665
Dividends: Interim-paid	770	384
Final—proposed	2.6p	1.0p
Final—proposed	1,517	539
Earnings per Share	3.94p	1.41p
	12.1p	9.5p

MR. ROBIN MARTIN, CHAIRMAN, REPORTS:

"The Group achieved another record for the third successive year with profit before tax at £9.3m. This time profits rose by 30 per cent and earnings per share by 27 per cent, over the previous year."

This was an excellent achievement in market conditions which were far from easy. Both overseas sales and profits increased at a greater rate than those from the United Kingdom and 52 per cent of our profits are now earned in overseas markets.

World markets for our products, particularly for industrial valves which account for some 40 per cent of our sales, remain difficult and there is as yet no sign of an improvement. The UK industrial scene is also difficult. The start of the current year has not been encouraging and prospects are uncertain. We shall need a concerted effort on the part of all at Serck to match the excellent results achieved last year."

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 10 January 1978 and the Annual General Meeting will be held at Birmingham on 9 February 1978.

SERCK LIMITED
751 WARWICK RD, SOLIHULL B37 3DG

ELECO HOLDINGS LIMITED

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Frank Webster, Year ended 30th June, 1977.

- Results maintained despite difficult trading conditions.
- Policy of new investment continuing throughout the Group.
- Group now better equipped to take full advantage of any expansion in the home market, and to tackle existing export markets more effectively.
- Part sale of Group Investment Properties in November 1977 realised over £1.3m in excess of June 1976 revaluation.
- New industrial portfolio to be created on existing Group sites.

S. Simpson

A good year's trading: turnover and profit at record levels.

The 44th Annual General Meeting of S. Simpson Limited was held on 13th December in London. Dr. S. L. Simpson, Chairman, presiding. The following are extracts from his circulated statement.

I am pleased to report a good year's trading in all divisions. In effect, our Turnover and Profit for the Financial Year under review surpassed all previous records. The achievements of the Manufacturing Companies in the second half of the year confirmed the forecast in my last year's Statement. For Simpson (Piccadilly) Ltd. the comprehensive range of DAKS Clothing for men and women played a prominent part in trading and its wide range of fashion goods in all sections also proved highly successful with overseas visitors.

Both the DAKS-Simpson Manufacturing Companies made good progress in the second half of the Financial Year as the benefits of re-organisation, large investments in modern equipment and techniques, creative styling and merchandising and great efforts to meet the needs of potential Export markets, began to be realised.

Royalty incomes from our Licensees abroad are a progressive and useful contribution to profit. These areas require adequate and close liaison with our experts in this country to ensure worldwide standards of design and quality. U.S.A. remains the most expensive potential.

The Company has just finalised an Agreement with Bernard Weatherill Ltd., internationally known for its Riding Wear, to co-operate in the manufacture and marketing of Men's and Women's riding jackets, coats, jodhpurs and breeches.

The Inverire Coat Company increased its turnover and profits substantially, especially in the second half of the year, establishing new high levels. Exports accounted for more than 70% of total sales.

The past year's achievements for the Group and present trading give good grounds for a favourable outlook for the current half year. However, it would be imprudent not to recognise that we are not immune from the general industrial and fiscal problems in this country and overseas. The problems of inflation, industrial and social unrest, increasing charges for essential services and onerous high taxation, inevitably constitute disincentives to entrepreneurs, management, skilled workers and investors, especially as the high rates of taxation in many areas, including investment income, are well beyond those of our industrial competitors in other countries. However, there are some signs of a better understanding of the many complex inter-related problems and of the need for us all to pull together if we are to solve them for the benefit of the country as a whole. With this hope and expectation I retain my qualified optimism for the future.

My sincere thanks, as Chairman, are due to all my colleagues on the Board, and to Management and Staff of all companies within the Group for their efforts and loyal co-operation in achieving a successful and progressive year's trading.

Saint Piran Limited

Summary of Half-Year Results

	6 months to 30/9/77	6 months to 30/9/76	12 months to 31/3/77
Turnover	7,168,000	5,958,000	12,335,000
Pretax profits	1,287,000	798,000	2,093,000

Highlights of Interim Statement

- ★ Dividend—5% interim dividend payable on 3rd February, 1978.
- ★ Trading—Improved results from both mining and housebuilding.
- ★ Outlook—Saint Piran has a very strong base and considerable cash resources with which to pursue its acquisition policy.

Copies of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, Saint Piran Limited, 13 Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London W1X 8DS.

South Crofty, Limited

Summary of Half-Year Results

	6 months to 30/9/77	6 months to 30/9/76	12 months to 31/3/77
Turnover	4,125,000	2,674,000	6,676,000
Pretax profits	1,139,000	539,000	1,481,000

Highlights of Interim Statement

- ★ Dividend—18.5% interim dividend payable on 3rd February, 1978.
- ★ Trading—substantially increased profits caused by sustained level of production coupled with rise in tin price.

Copies of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, South Crofty, Limited, Station Road, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3QH.

Milbury Limited

Summary of Half-Year Results

	6 months to 30/9/77	6 months to 30/9/76	12 months to 31/3/77
Turnover	2,586,000	2,570,000	4,447,000
Pretax profits	267,000	263,000	485,000

Highlights of Interim Statement

- ★ Dividend—6% interim dividend payable on 3rd February, 1978.
- ★ Trading—profitability maintained despite high inflation.
- ★ Land—land bank replenished by purchase of further prime land.

Copies of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, Milbury Limited, 178 Old Wellington Road, Eccles, Manchester M30 9OP.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Retailing spearheads recovery as K Shoes again tops £2m

By Tony May

A spirited recovery in the second half has pushed K Shoes back past the £2m mark for the year to September 30. This is better news than seemed likely at half-time, when pretax profits stood at £1.14m, or £762,000. Mr Spencer Crookenden, chairman, said that problems associated with the close down of the Norwich factory were the main cause of the setback, but this problem was now behind. He expected profits for the full year to be close to the 1975-76 total.

In the event, the second half brought a leap of 68 per cent to £1.32m before tax, leaving the year's total at £2.08m against £1.56m last year and the record £2.7m made in 1972-73. This was achieved on sales 9 per cent up at £43.1m, and points to a rise in margins from 3.79m per cent to 4.65 per cent.

Mr Crookenden says the results reflect a fine performance by the retail outlets. Helped by an upturn in demand over August and September this



Mr. Spencer Crookenden, chairman of K Shoes.

division made a record profit. The group's results would have been better but for a loss by the manufacturing company, K Shoemakers, which has met tough going.

The close-down at Norwich and the running of several other factories below capacity depressed the first half, and Mr Crookenden says that it took several months to rebuild morale and productivity. The group's factories are now busy, thanks to improved demand this autumn, and the increased forward ordering by retailers for the spring ranges of men's, women's and children's K Shoes. He adds that manufacturing prospects look much brighter than at this time last year.

For the first time, the group has adopted the new accounting standard for valuing stocks, and has stopped providing for deferred taxation. The 1976 figures have been altered for a full comparison.

The results were good for the shares pushing them up to 49p, where the yield is 7.02 per cent. The gross dividend total of 3.44p against 3.21p, and earnings a share 11.27p against 10.03p.

Disruption to mar Smiths Inds

Much the same as Lucas Industries last week assessed the adverse effect of the tool-makers' strike. Mr Roy Sisson, chairman of Smiths Industries, also reports "considerable disruption" stemming from reaction to the anti-inflation policy.

While many of its sectors were well covered with forward orders, the group's ability to deliver goods was dependent on how the anti-inflation policy was reflected in industrial disruption both in its own and customer workshops.

Generally, sales and profits of many of its activities showed improvement on a year ago. Mr Sisson cited the main exceptions as its operations with motor vehicle manufacturers and with the aero-space industry, which have been affected by disruption. He gives a warning that because of this total profits for the current half-year will fall below those of the same period last year. But with signs of a lessening in the disruption, plus improvement within the company, it was on the cards that this opening shortfall could be recovered in the full year.

Wilson Brothers up 40pc at the halfway stage

By Michael Clark

Greetings card publisher Wilson Brothers reports a rise of 40 per cent in pretax profits to £486,000 for the 26 weeks to September 30. This is coupled with the good news that pretax profits for the full year to March 31 1978 will be substantially higher than for the previous year. The shares stayed firm at 36 1/2p yesterday.

Turnover of this Middlesex-based group was £8.1m for the 26 weeks compared with £4.8m for 27 weeks. Margins rose slightly from 7.11 to 7.95 per cent, and earnings a share are 2.01p against 1.40p. The directors declared an interim divi-

dend of 0.97p compared with 0.75p for the corresponding period. The board has decided that the whole of the 10 per cent increase permitted for the interim dividend.

Recently, Britain's biggest number of greeting cards Fine Art Developments, increased pretax profits by one third to £1.15m. Earlier in the year Fine Art raised £1.85m by way of a rights issue. Fine Art is at present holding a 20.17 per cent stake in Wilson Brothers.

In the last full year pretax profits of Wilson Brothers fell from £574,000 to £449,000 with turnover up from £7.6m to £8.4m.

GEORGE BASSETT Group has bought 75 per cent of capital of Roger & Co for £268,227 cash, financed by Euro-currency loan. Annual pretax profit from assets being acquired £126,772.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASS Acceptances for £2.7 per cent of the £1.7m shares offered as rights. Shares not taken up sold at 70p premium over offer price, 73p a share, to be distributed to those entitled.

Cawoods face lag after good opening

By Our Financial Staff

Profits at Cawoods Holdings increased by almost a fifth in the first half of the current year but Mr Edward Binks, chairman, is not so confident of the second six months.

Lower interest rates, capital spending and market forces are likely to leave the group below last year's second half profit of £4.5m. Yesterday the shares slipped 4p to 144p.

In the half to September 30 the Harrogate-based fuel distributor-to-road materials conglomerate increased pretax profits from a previous £2.4m to £2.9m on turnover up £18m to £102m.

The 21 per cent improvement in turnover reflected price increases in coal and oil and some growth in volume in the solid and oil fuel, building materials, refractories and container shipping divisions.

Fear by consumers of a miners strike, and a more normal summer this year, increased demand for domestic coal and coupled to rising prices, this boosted the division's profit contribution. However the chairman gives warning that the improvement could be at the expense of second-half figures.

Solid and oil fuel sales were up, despite severe competition in the market but coal exports remained depressed. Current stocks of coal and oil fuel, totalling £5.2m, show an improvement on the same period last year.

The difficulties of the construction industry and lower profits in the building and road materials division the chairman reports. This suggests that Cawoods has increased its market share.

The refractories and container shipping services also turned in stepped-up contributions.

Cawoods also has an 11.6 per cent stake in London & Scottish Marine Oil and various interests in eight North Sea blocks held by Total Oil Marine Consortium.

Exploration to cost Hudson's Bay \$150m

Calgary, Alberta—Mr S. G. Olson, president of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, says that 1978 investment plans recently approved by the directors will result in more than \$150m of expenditure for exploration, development and other activities. This will also be 20 per cent higher than the 1977 programme.

Expenditures for oil and gas exploration will be the largest in the group's history at nearly \$90m, with three quarters expected to be spent in Canada and the rest in foreign areas. In comparison with 1977, this will represent an increase of 40 per cent. The Canadian portion of the 1978 programme will be up by 30 per cent and will result in participation in the drilling of approximately 120 exploratory wells.

In Alberta, where the majority of the activity will take place, the group expects to participate in 10 deep tests in the foothills and deep basin areas and about 30 exploratory wells in the prolific whitewater block in west-central Alberta.

Ten wells will be drilled in Saskatchewan as part of the heavy oil exploration programme, and four natural gas prospects will be tested in British Columbia.

Donaldson, Lufkin New York—Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette has completed the acquisitions of Pershing and Co and Wood Struthers and Winthrop. The combined firms will have a capital base of nearly \$75m including a revolving credit and term loan of \$15m.

Pershing and Co is a New York stock exchange clearing broker and correspondent for more than 100 regional and international securities firms. Wood Struthers and Winthrop is a New York stock exchange member firm—Reuters.

All well at Daimler Stuttgart—Daimler-Benz has had another successful year. The final 1977 turnover figure is put at DM25,500m compared with DM23,500m. Herr Joachim Zahn, management board chairman, said.

International

Car sales are expected to climb 16 per cent to DM11,000m added. Earnings are also expected to grow thanks to an above average rise in car production and sales, particularly of the Mercedes 5 models.

Goodyear confident

Akron, Ohio.—The United States tyre industry will produce 255m car and truck tyres this year. This is nearly 7 per cent more than the old production record set in 1972. Goodyear Tyre & Rubber chairman, Mr Charles J. Pilliod comments.

He says that car tyre output will rise 25 per cent to over 200m units. Truck tyre production will be up 32 per cent to 39m units. The 1978 car tyre market will be 195m units and truck tyre units will total 41m, he estimates.

The United States tyre industry is entering a period of sales stability with a forecast 7 to 7 1/2 per cent increase in car tyre sales over the next year, Mr Pilliod added.

Carter merger plan

New York.—Carter Hawley Stores, which has sold its House of Fraser stake to Lorch, has proposed merger negotiations with Marshall Field and Co. Carter chief Mr P. M. Hawley said that Marshall Field management has so far been unwilling to enter into negotiations, and no response to his letter has been received. Carter proposes a share exchange valuing Marshall Field shares at \$36 each.

Pechiney's leap

Paris.—Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann, the big aluminium and chemical group expects 1977's net profits to be between F350m and F500m up from last year's F315m.

The directors told an information meeting that gross consolidated profits this year are expected to be Fr1.8 billion up from Fr1.2 billion in 1976.—Reuters.

What does Grindlays bank on?

The Grindlays Bank Group has come a long way from its beginnings in the 19th Century. In 1977 we are a major international bank - a world leader in certain areas - but we work hard to preserve the traditions that put us where we are today. Although the Group is now represented and active all around the world, we have not forgotten that it is people who make our business: our own specialists and managers in head office and branches working alongside other people - our customers.

The success of this team effort can be seen in these examples of the Group's activities - as they happen. They are the result of people's efforts. That is what Grindlays banks on.



THE GROUP PROVIDES BANKING FACILITIES FOR 71 OF THE U.K. TOP 100 INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD. Two of our corporate banking team in London discuss the financing of a project in the Middle East with the Finance Director of a leading British contracting company.



THE GROUP ACTIVELY PROMOTES BRITISH EXPORTS THROUGH ECED DOLLAR BUYER CREDITS. We have arranged ECED export finance facilities for British equipment to customers in over 55 countries.



THE GROUP'S TREASURY DIVISION COVERS ALL FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET ACTIVITIES. Our foreign exchange dealing room is one of London's most active in the major currencies and also provides quotations in up to 40 other currencies. The Treasury is also active in the eurocurrency and sterling inter-bank markets and in particular offers a service in a wide range of money market instruments.



23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED.

MARKET REPORTS

Eurobond prices

(midday indicators)

US STRAIGHTS (5)	Bid	Offer
Australia 1984	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1985	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1986	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1987	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1988	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1989	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1990	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1991	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1992	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1993	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1994	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1995	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1996	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1997	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1998	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 1999	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2000	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2001	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2002	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2003	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2004	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2005	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2006	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2007	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2008	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2009	99 1/2	100 1/2
Australia 2010	99 1/2	100 1/2

CANADIAN DOLLARS

1977-78

1978-79

1979-80

1980-81

1981-82

1982-83

1983-84

1984-85

1985-86

1986-87

1987-88

1988-89

1989-90

1990-91

1991-92

1992-93

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2036-37

2037-38

2038-39

2039-40

2040-41

2041-42

2042-43

2043-44

2044-45

2045-46

2046-47

2047-48

2048-49

2049-50

2050-51

COPPER

(midday indicators)

1977-78	100 1/2	101 1/2
1978-79	100 1/2	101 1/2
1979-80	100 1/2	101 1/2
1980-81	100 1/2	101 1/2
1981-82	100 1/2	101 1/2
1982-83	100 1/2	101 1/2
1983-84	100 1/2	101 1/2
1984-85	100 1/2	101 1/2
1985-86	100 1/2	101 1/2
1986-87	100 1/2	101 1/2
1987-88	100 1/2	101 1/2
1988-89	100 1/2	101 1/2
1989-90	100 1/2	101 1/2
1990-91	100 1/2	101 1/2
1991-92	100 1/2	101 1/2
1992-93	100 1/2	101 1/2
1993-94	100 1/2	101 1/2
1994-95	100 1/2	101 1/2
1995-96	100 1/2	101 1/2
1996-97	100 1/2	101 1/2
1997-98	100 1/2	101 1/2
1998-99	100 1/2	101 1/2
1999-00	100 1/2	101 1/2
2000-01	100 1/2	101 1/2
2001-02	100 1/2	101 1/2
2002-03	100 1/2	101 1/2
2003-04	100 1/2	101 1/2
2004-05	100 1/2	101 1/2
2005-06	100 1/2	101 1/2
2006-07	100 1/2	101 1/2
2007-08	100 1/2	101 1/2
2008-09	100 1/2	101 1/2
2009-10	100 1/2	101 1/2
2010-11	100 1/2	101 1/2
2011-12	100 1/2	101 1/2
2012-13	100 1/2	101 1/2
2013-14	100 1/2	101 1/2
2014-15	100 1/2	101 1/2
2015-16	100 1/2	101 1/2
2016-17	100 1/2	101 1/2
2017-18	100 1/2	101 1/2
2018-19	100 1/2	101 1/2
2019-20	100 1/2	101 1/2
2020-21	100 1/2	101 1/2
2021-22	100 1/2	101 1/2
2022-23	100 1/2	101 1/2
2023-24	100 1/2	101 1/2
2024-25	100 1/2	101 1/2
2025-26	100 1/2	101 1/2
2026-27	100 1/2	101 1/2
2027-28	100 1/2	101 1/2
2028-29	100 1/2	101 1/2
2029-30	100 1/2	101 1/2
2030-31	100 1/2	101 1/2
2031-32	100 1/2	101 1/2
2032-33	100 1/2	101 1/2
2033-34	100 1/2	101 1/2
2034-35	100 1/2	101 1/2
2035-36	100 1/2	101 1/2
2036-37	100 1/2	101 1/2
2037-38	100 1/2	101 1/2
2038-39	100 1/2	101 1/2
2039-40	100 1/2	101 1/2
2040-41	100 1/2	101 1/2
2041-42	100 1/2	101 1/2
2042-43	100 1/2	101 1/2
2043-44	100 1/2	101 1/2
2044-45	100 1/2	101 1/2
2045-46	100 1/2	101 1/2
2046-47	100 1/2	101 1/2
2047-48	100 1/2	101 1/2
2048-49	100 1/2	101 1/2
2049-50	100 1/2	101 1/2
2050-51	100 1/2	101 1/2

WALL STREET

New York, Dec. 13.—The New

York stock exchange closed lower

with the Dow Jones industrial

average off 0.52 to 815.23.

Declining issues led gains by

730 common shares, up from

19,130 shares, up from

Monday's 18,180.

Analysts said investors were

concerned with the outlook of

the Bank for International

Settlements (BIS) meeting.

The United States has

recently expressed unwilling-

ness to support the dollar through

active intervention on the foreign

exchange and instead is seeking

promises from West Germany and

Japan that they will stabilize their

economies.

Gold and Western Industries

Inc. rose 1 1/2 to 121 1/2. The

company said that in fiscal 1978 it

"might reverse" the decline in earnings

experienced in fiscal 1977, ended

July 31.

Silver gains 5.10 cents

New York, Dec. 13.—SILVER

gains 5.10 cents to 10.10.

The metal rose on reports that

the United States will increase

its stockpile of the metal.

The report came from the

Commodity Futures Trading

Commission (CFTC).

The CFTC said that the

United States will increase

its stockpile of silver to

100 million ounces.

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its stockpile of silver to

100 million ounces.

Commodities

(midday indicators)

1977-78	100 1/2	101 1/2
1978-79	100 1/2	101 1/2
1979-80	100 1/2	101 1/2
1980-81	100 1/2	101 1/2
1981-82	100 1/2	101 1/2
1982-83	100 1/2	101 1/2
1983-84	100 1/2	101 1/2
1984-85	100 1/2	101 1/2
1985-86	100 1/2	101 1/2
1986-87	100 1/2	101 1/2
1987-88	100 1/2	101 1/2
1988-89	100 1/2	101 1/2
1989-90	100 1/2	101 1/2
1990-91	100 1/2	101 1/2
1991-92	100 1/2	101 1/2
1992-93	100 1/2	101 1/2
1993-94	100 1/2	101 1/2
1994-95	100 1/2	101 1/2
1995-96	100 1/2	101 1/2
1996-97	100 1/2	101 1/2
1997-98	100 1/2	101 1/2
1998-99	100 1/2	101 1/2
1999-00	100 1/2	101 1/2
2000-01	100 1/2	101 1/2
2001-02	100 1/2	101 1/2
2002-03	100 1/2	101 1/2
2003-04	100 1/2	101 1/2
2004-05	100 1/2	101 1/2
2005-06	100 1/2	101 1/2
2006-07	100 1/2	101 1/2
2007-08	100 1/2	101 1/2
2008-09	100 1/2	101 1/2
2009-10	100 1/2	101 1/2
2010-11	100 1/2	101 1/2
2011-12	100 1/2	101 1/2
2012-13	100 1/2	101 1/2
2013-14	100 1/2	101 1/2
2014-15	100 1/2	101 1/2
2015-16	100 1/2	101 1/2
2016-17	100 1/2	101 1/2
2017-18	100 1/2	101 1/2
2018-19	100 1/2	101 1/2
2019-20	100 1/2	101 1/2
2020-21	100 1/2	101 1/2
2021-22	100 1/2	101 1/2
2022-23	100 1/2	101 1/2
2023-24	100 1/2	101 1/2
2024-25	100 1/2	101 1/2
2025-26	100 1/2	101 1/2
2026-27	100 1/2	101 1/2
2027-28	100 1/2	101 1/2
2028-29	100 1/2	101 1/2
2029-30	100 1/2	101 1/2
2030-31	100 1/2	101 1/2
2031-32	100 1/2	101 1/2
2032-33	100 1/2	101 1/2

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. § Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

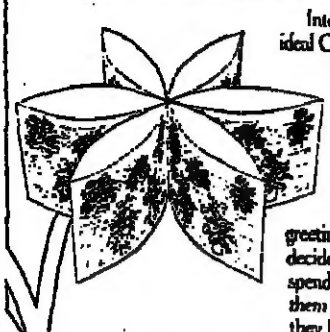
BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
"Afore ye go"

1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	97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Christmas Gift Guide

For Everyone

Our Christmas Cards turn into flowers



Interflora Gift Tokens make ideal Christmas gifts. They're exchangeable at full face value for flowers and plants at over 2,000 Interflora florists throughout the British Isles.

On sale from 50p upwards, with a free greetings card and envelope, you decide how much you want to spend—and leave those you send them to pick whatever flowers they like.

International Gift Cheques from £2 can be sent to 130 countries overseas. This year, send flowers for the cost of posting a Christmas card.

Interflora Gift Tokens. Yet another way Interflora makes the day. Interflora, Stamford, Lines.

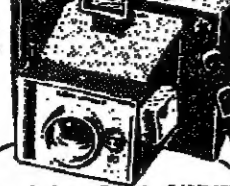
For Everyone

Save £6.50 on a Polaroid Colour Swinger at Argos.

Capture the fun of Christmas as it happens with these special Christmas offers:

Colour Swinger £10.95
Super Colour Swinger £15.25
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Colour Swinger Cat. No. 560/2427
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For Everyone

Slipper socks



WILD BIRD knit. A fascinating card assembly making lifelike realistic birds. 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 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1502, 1504, 1506, 1508, 1510, 1512, 1514, 1516, 1518, 1520, 1522, 1524, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1532, 1534, 1536, 1538, 1540, 1542, 1544, 1546, 1548, 1550, 1552, 1554, 1556, 1558, 1560, 1562, 1564, 1566, 1568, 1570, 1572, 1574, 1576, 1578, 1580, 1582, 1584, 1586, 1588, 1590, 1592, 1594, 1596, 1598, 1600, 1602, 1604, 1606, 1608, 1610, 1612, 1614, 1616, 1618, 1620, 1622, 1624, 1626, 1628, 1630, 1632, 1634, 1636, 1638, 1640, 1642, 1644, 1646, 1648, 1650, 1652, 1654, 1656, 1658, 1660, 1662, 1664, 1666, 1668, 1670, 1672, 1674, 1676, 1678, 1680, 1682, 1684, 1686, 1688, 1690, 1692, 1694, 1696, 1698, 1700, 1702, 1704, 1706, 1708, 1710, 1712, 1714, 1716, 1718, 1720, 1722, 1724, 1726, 1728, 1730, 1732, 1734, 1736, 1738, 1740, 1742, 1744, 1746, 1748, 1750, 1752, 1754, 1756, 1758, 1760, 1762, 1764, 1766, 1768, 1770, 1772, 1774, 1776, 1778, 1780, 1782, 1784, 1786, 1788, 1790, 1792, 1794, 1796, 1798, 1800, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1808, 1810, 1812, 1814, 1816, 1818, 1820, 1822, 1824, 1826, 1828, 1830, 1832, 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2166, 2168, 2170, 2172, 2174, 2176, 2178, 2180, 2182, 2184, 2186, 2188, 2190, 2192, 2194, 2196, 2198, 2200, 2202, 2204, 2206, 2208, 2210, 2212, 2214, 2216, 2218, 2220, 2222, 2224, 2226, 2228, 2230, 2232, 2234, 2236, 2238, 2240, 2242, 2244, 2246, 2248, 2250, 2252, 2254, 2256, 2258, 2260, 2262, 2264, 2266, 2268, 2270, 2272, 2274, 2276, 2278, 2280, 2282, 2284, 2286, 2288, 2290, 2292, 2294, 2296, 2298, 2300, 2302, 2304, 2306, 2308, 2310, 2312, 2314, 2316, 2318, 2320, 2322, 2324, 2326, 2328, 2330, 2332, 2334, 2336, 2338, 2340, 2342, 2344, 2346, 2348, 2350, 2352, 2354, 2356, 2358, 2360, 2362, 2364, 2366, 2368, 2370, 2372, 2374, 2376, 2378, 2380, 2382, 2384, 2386, 2388, 2390, 2392, 2394, 2396, 2398, 2400, 2402, 2404, 2406, 2408, 2410, 2412, 2414, 2416, 2418, 2420, 2422, 2424, 2426, 2428, 2430, 2432, 2434, 2436, 2438, 2440, 2442, 2444, 2446, 2448, 2450, 2452, 2454, 2456, 2458, 2460, 2462, 2464, 2466, 2468, 2470, 2472, 2474, 2476, 2478, 2480, 2482, 2484, 2486, 2488, 2490, 2492, 2494, 2496, 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3162, 3164, 3166, 3168, 3170, 3172, 3174, 3176, 3178, 3180, 3182, 3184, 3186, 3188, 3190, 3192, 3194, 3196, 3198, 3200, 3202, 3204, 3206, 3208, 3210, 3212, 3214, 3216, 3218, 3220, 3222, 3224, 3226, 3228, 3230, 3232, 3234, 3236, 3238, 3240, 3242, 3244, 3246, 3248, 3250, 3252, 3254, 3256, 3258, 3260, 3262, 3264, 3266, 3268, 3270, 3272, 3274, 3276, 3278, 3280, 3282, 3284, 3286, 3288, 3290, 3292, 3294, 3296, 3298, 3300, 3302, 3304, 3306, 3308, 3310, 3312, 3314, 3316, 3318, 3320, 3322, 3324, 3326, 3328, 3330, 3332, 3334, 3336, 3338, 3340, 3342, 3344, 3346, 3348, 3350, 3352, 3354, 3356, 3358, 3360, 3362, 3364, 3366, 3368, 3370, 3372, 3374, 3376, 3378, 3380, 3382, 3384, 3386, 3388, 3390, 3392, 3394, 3396, 3398, 3400, 3402, 3404, 3406, 3408, 3410, 3412, 3414, 3416, 3418, 3420, 3422, 3424, 3426, 3428, 3430, 3432, 3434, 3436, 3438, 3440, 3442, 3444, 3446, 3448, 3450, 3452, 3454, 3456, 3458, 3460, 3462, 3464, 3466, 3468, 3470, 3472, 3474, 3476, 3478, 3480, 3482, 3484, 3486, 3488, 3490, 3492, 3494, 3496, 3498, 3500, 3502, 3504, 3506, 3508, 3510, 3512, 3514, 3516, 3518, 3520, 3522, 3524, 3526, 3528, 3530, 3532, 3534, 3536, 3538, 3540, 3542, 3544, 3546, 3548, 3550, 3552, 3554, 3556, 3558, 3560, 3562, 3564, 3566, 3568, 3570, 3572, 3574, 3576, 3578, 3580, 3582, 3584, 3586, 3588, 3590, 3592, 3594, 3596, 3598, 3600, 3602, 3604, 3606, 3608, 3610, 3612, 3614, 3616, 3618, 3620, 3622, 3624, 3626, 3628, 3630, 3632, 3634, 3636, 3638, 3640, 3642, 3644, 3646, 3648, 3650, 3652, 3654, 3656, 3658, 3660, 3662, 3664, 3666, 3668, 3670, 3672, 3674, 3676, 3678, 3680, 3682, 3684, 3686, 3688, 3690, 3692, 3694, 3696, 3698, 3700, 3702, 3704, 3706, 3708, 3710, 3712, 3714, 3716, 3718, 3720, 3722, 3724, 3726, 3728, 3730, 3732, 3734, 3736, 3738, 3740, 3742, 3744, 3746, 3748, 3750, 3752, 3754, 3756, 3758, 3760, 3762, 3764, 3766, 3768, 3770, 3772, 3774, 3776, 3778, 3780, 3782, 3784, 3786, 3788, 3790, 3792, 3794, 3796, 3798, 3800, 3802, 3804, 3806, 3808, 3810, 3812, 3814, 3816, 3818, 3820, 3822, 3824, 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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGES 26 AND 27

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOMAINS—Love, Squid.
LYNNE—Happy birthday, love, The Mad Scientist.

DEATHS

BAXTER—On 10th December, suddenly, Eric Baxter, 54, of 10, St. James's Place, London, W.1, died of a heart attack. He was a well-known actor and had appeared in many films. He is survived by his wife and two children.

DEATHS

MERCER—On 10th December, 1977, suddenly, at his home, 10, St. James's Place, London, W.1, died of a heart attack. He was a well-known actor and had appeared in many films. He is survived by his wife and two children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIABETES
 will have to be conquered
 AND YOU CAN HELP TO SAY
 WHEN

A donation to help research into the cause of diabetes will be well spent. The R. Hon. Lord Redcliffe-Maud, G.C.B., C.B.E., British Diabetic Association, Dept. 1704, 3/6 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7EE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE HELP
 many thousands who suffer from
CHEST, HEART & STROKE
 and we sponsor
RESEARCH & REHABILITATION

"In Memory of" is a special service for those who have died. It is a way of remembering them and of helping to ease their passage to the next world. It is a service which is available to all who wish to use it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL 1853-1978
 The school is celebrating its 125th anniversary. It is a school of excellence and is proud to have produced many distinguished alumni.

IS YOUR HOUSE TOO LARGE?
 If you are looking for a new home, you may be interested in a house which is just the size you need. It is a house which is well located and is a good value for money.

GOODWIN, CLIVE—Those who knew him will be surprised to hear that he has died. He was a well-known actor and had appeared in many films. He is survived by his wife and two children.

LEADING LONDON AIR GALLERY
 is now open. It is a gallery which is well located and is a good value for money. It is a gallery which is well located and is a good value for money.

ASK FOR NAME NEIL
 This is a name which is well known and is a good value for money. It is a name which is well known and is a good value for money.

PART-TIME CHAUFFEUR
 is now available. He is a well-known actor and has appeared in many films. He is a well-known actor and has appeared in many films.

IN MEMORIAM
 A memorial service will be held for a well-known actor. He was a well-known actor and has appeared in many films. He is a well-known actor and has appeared in many films.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 from 15p to £20.75 at your Oxford Catalogue

CANCER RESEARCH
 The heavy toll that cancer still takes on the lives of many people is a tragedy. It is a tragedy which is well known and is a good value for money.

IMPERIAL CANCER
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